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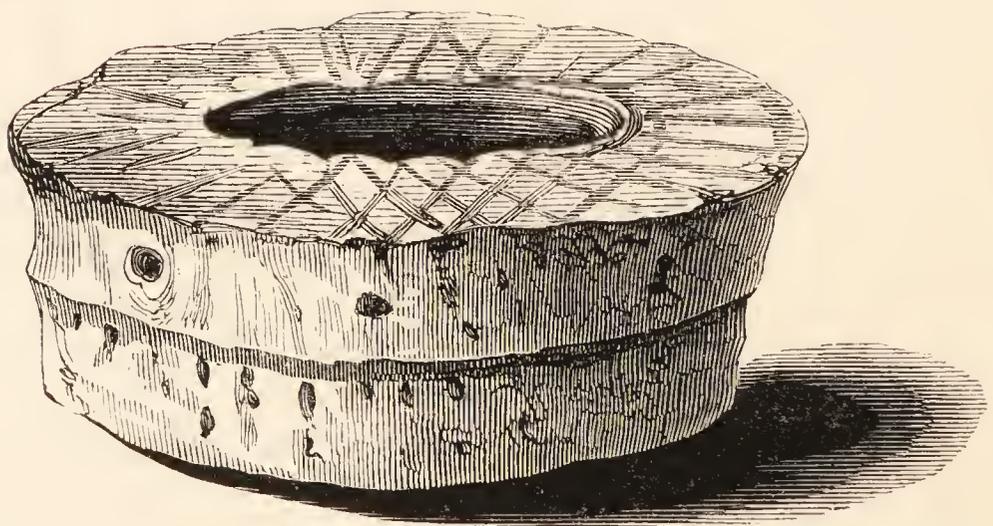
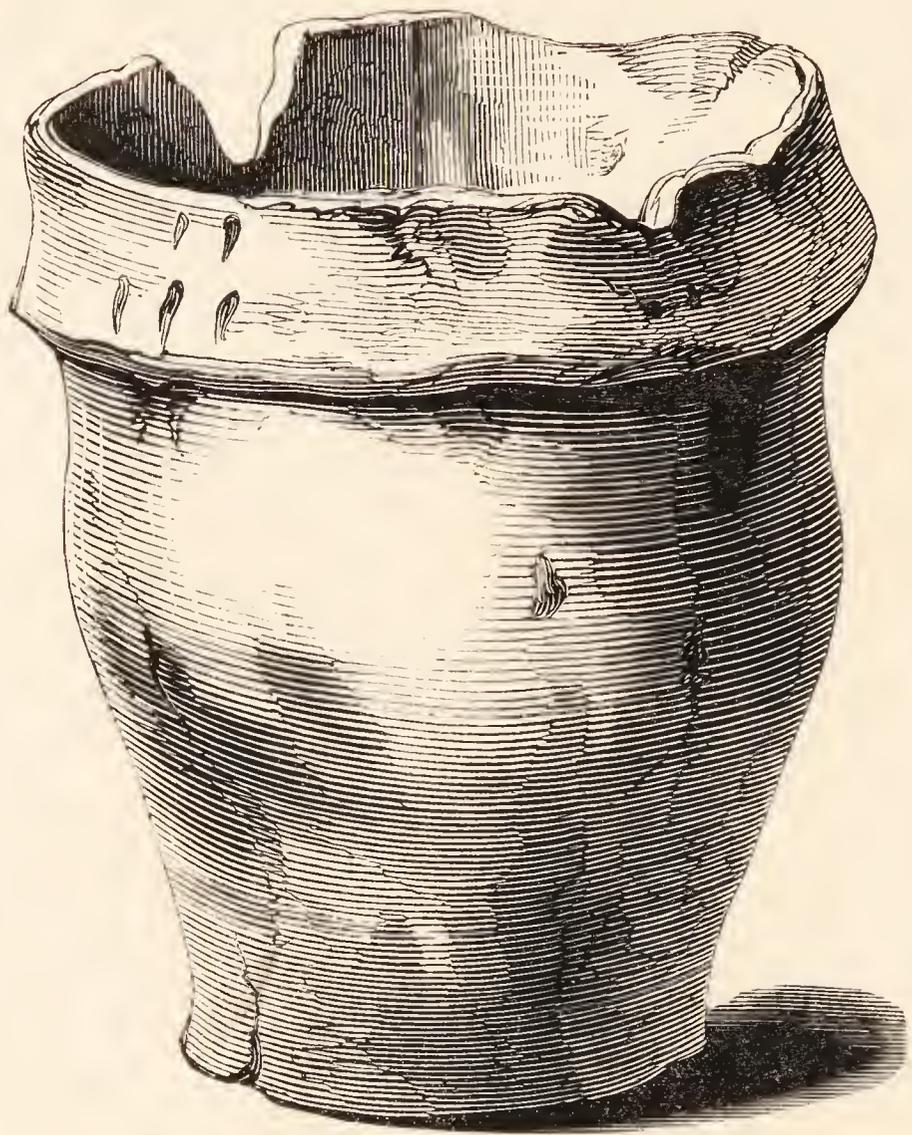
J. Pettigrew Esq^r.

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URN AND THURIBULUM OF UNBAKED CLAY, FOUND IN A BARROW
AT MELBOURNE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

SEPULCHRA EXPOSITA,
OR
AN ACCOUNT
OF THE
OPENING OF SOME BARROWS;
WITH
REMARKS UPON MISCELLANEOUS
ANTIQUITIES;
DISCOVERED IN THE
NEIGHBOURHOOD OF AUDLEY END,
ESSEX.

BY
THE HON. R. C. NEVILLE, F.S.A.,
ETC., ETC.

SAFFRON WALDEN:
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1848.



TO THE LADY BRAYBROOKE.

MY DEAREST MOTHER,

In offering to your acceptance the dedication of the following unlearned pages (an idea long since conceived), I am still further encouraged by two considerations.—That no better or more satisfactory evidence of the success of your assiduous and (under Divine Providence) effectual attentions to me during a long and painful illness of eight years, can be given, than is afforded by the renewed powers of body and mind, necessarily displayed by the energy requisite to pursue Archæological researches, and record their history. The subject too, one with which you are already familiar, is by no means devoid of interest for you, I am well assured, as was evinced by your pleasure in the Bartlow labours of the late lamented Gage Rokewode, Esq., F.S.A., who was certainly, with gratitude he records it, the godfather in Archæology, of

Your very affectionate Son,

R. C. NEVILLE.

P R E F A C E .

A FEW remarks prefatory to the following pages may not be deemed out of place here ; and indeed I feel they are almost called for to explain the reasons that have induced me to follow up the "*Antiqua Explorata*" so closely and immediately by another volume on a subject so nearly allied to it. The fact is simply this ; on my first essay on paper I felt diffident, and was unwilling to obtrude what might be considered as too much of a good thing, bearing in mind the old adage, that "enough is as good as a feast." The kind assurances of my friends, and the expressions of hope from a good many that the bulk of the volume may be enlarged, have dispelled my fears, and led me to subjoin some further notes of subsequent operations, and curiosities of antiquity, connected with the locale of Audley End.

Audley End,

May, 1848.

INTRODUCTION.

THE old and ably-compiled work of Douglas, the "*Næphia Britannica*," giving an accurate account of each separate interment, and Sir R. C. Hoare's well-known volumes on the examination of the British Barrows of Wiltshire, so abundant and gigantic in that county, would at first sight seem to render all further operations in opening or examining such structures superfluous. On more carefully reconsidering the subject, however, it will be found that the researches of the former were chiefly confined to Kent, and the tombs of the Danes as well as of the pure Saxons, which are, I believe, more universal there than in any other county in England; added to which, these excavations having taken place one hundred and thirty years ago, are in themselves a matter of antiquity. Sir R. C. Hoare's, though of more recent date, were still undertaken at a period when the subject was not so well understood as it is now, when they attract

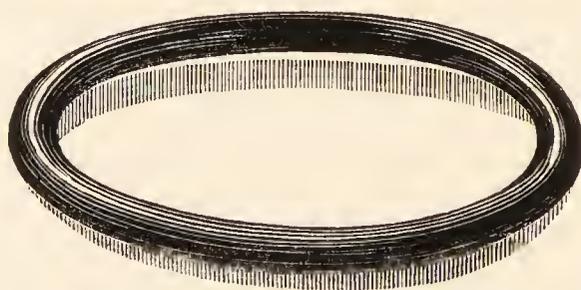
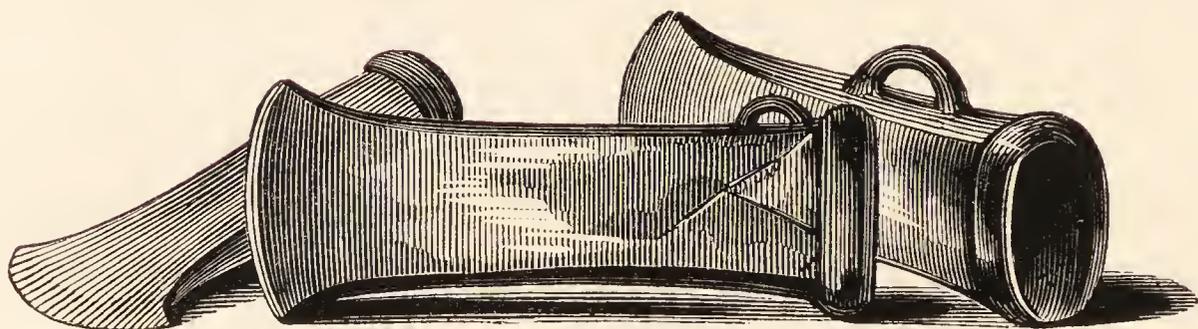
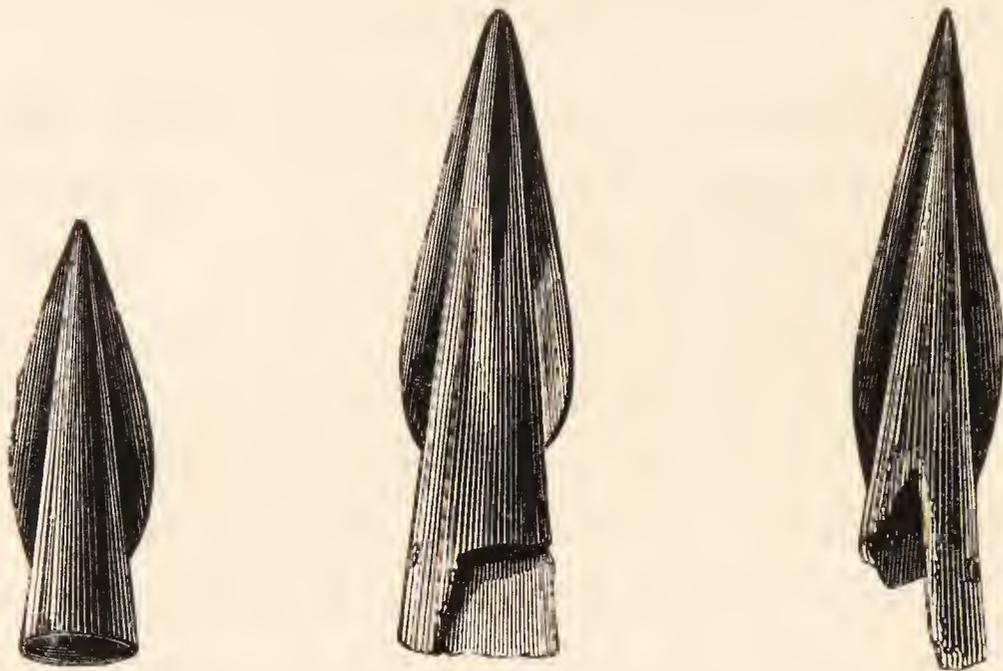
so much attention ; indeed the last two years have, perhaps, thrown more light on them than the twenty preceding ones. Such being the case, antiquarians appear generally anxious to procure additional confirmation by authenticated reports of actual circumstances, to enable them to determine several dubious points, as well as to define more clearly the nature of the erections ; for their appropriation as sepulchres has been, and indeed still continues to be questioned. There exist, I conceive, two obstacles towards obtaining such additional evidence ; firstly, from the difficulty of meeting with similar elevations that have *bona fide* never been opened or disturbed ; and, secondly, when such elevations are found, persons are unwilling to expend time and money in examining and recording their relative contents, composition, &c. Deeming this explanation necessary for what might otherwise appear a work of supererogation, I will commence the narrative, hoping to amuse and interest my readers, if not by the value, at least by the diversity of the contents of the British Barrows, in the course of which I think I shall prove them to be almost universally the poorest of the poor tombs ; a circumstance which does not in any way lessen their interest in the opinion of an amateur of the pursuit, like myself ; more especially, if I am thereby enabled to establish the truth of any one controverted point.

SEPULCHRA EXPOSITA.

IN concluding my last little volume on Antiquities, of which the following is intended as a continuation, I was perhaps over anxious to deny the charge of diving into tombs. I feel therefore almost ashamed of my title page, which would seem to contradict the assertion, having to do entirely with a *grave* subject, and consequently one that precludes my friends from the hope that the following work will prove as interesting as the former ; which has, I believe, been sufficiently attractive to induce them to wade among the fragmentary remains of glass and pottery at Chesterford and Hadstock, in pursuit of the traces of our Roman forefathers, at their several stations, and once permanent habitations.

The purport of the following pages being thus far stated, my readers will doubtless grant me the admission, that the living, and all things pertaining to

them, take natural precedence of the dead, and that, in consequence, they should be treated of first. In pursuance of this plan, a curious circumstance brought under my notice in the course of last winter, every way worthy of being recorded among my *memorabilia*, with regard to some bronze celts, and other early British implements, will here find place : it occurred in the parish of Elmdon. Last March twelvemonth, two of my workmen being quartered in this village for the purpose of making excavations in a mound supposed to be a barrow, had occasion to go to the blacksmith's to repair their tools, where they accidentally saw and procured two perfect bronze celts, and three fragments of a spear, which had been recently discovered in the neighbouring parish of Chrishall, in the course of land-ditching. These articles were originally taken to the blacksmith's as old iron, who disposed of them to me, and promised to give notice of any similar curiosity that came to his knowledge. It was not till a later period that he communicated to me the fact, withheld at first, that in addition to those in my possession, a great heap of them was also taken out of the same hole ; the latter was filled with black earth. He had parted with the most perfect of this hoard of weapons "as curiosities, to divers people;" he added, however, that "many fragments still remained, to which I was welcome." Two of them are very fine celts. Amongst the rest there are four



CELTS AND SPEAR HEADS FOUND AT ELM DON.

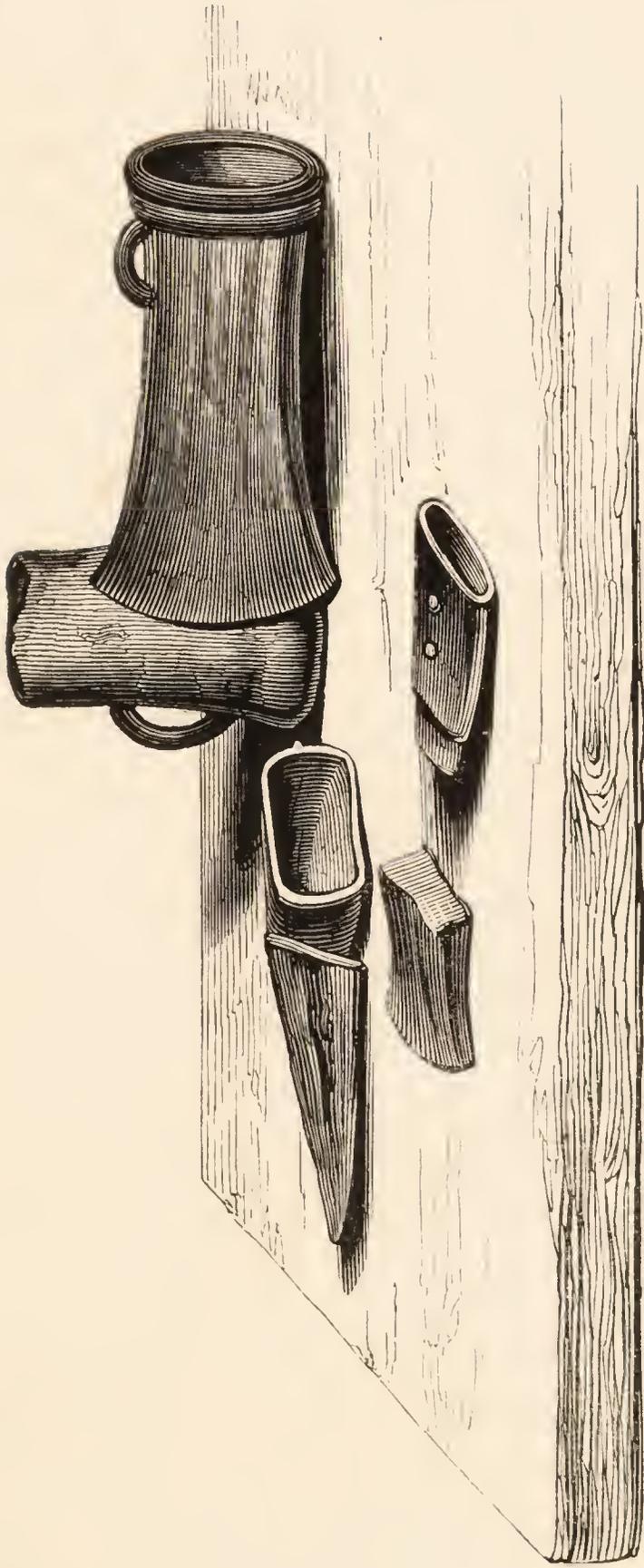
different patterns of these implements, and a perfect arrow-head; and what too is further remarkable, several lumps of the metal fused together, as well as a first brass coin, entirely defaced, the colour of the metal being a bright yellow. Now as the hole was filled with burnt earth, with great portions of the metal appearing fused, and as the first brass coin, now known to be one of Hadrian's, was discovered in it, we may infer that this was the site of a forge, which cannot however be definitively ascertained at present, even were the search authorized, since the field is in wheat this year.

Since writing the above remarks, I have seen the first portion of this research brought to light on the property of J. Wilkes, Esq., of Lofts Hall, by whose kind permission I have been enabled to have them most faithfully delineated. Their description is as follows, and the weapons are numbered and referred to in the accompanying plate.

1. A massive piece of bronze Ring Money, three inches in diameter.
- 2, 3, and 4. Three perfect Celts.
- 5, 6, and 7. Three Spear-heads of different patterns.
8. A fine Arrow-head.

The history of British celts is involved in so much obscurity, that I feel no apology is needed for the insertion here of some very appropriate remarks on the subject, contained in a letter from C. Newton, Esq., called forth by this occasion.

“ Every case where the mixed metal is discovered goes to prove, that these weapons were manufactured in and not imported into this island. This enquiry possesses great interest, and suggests several considerations. I believe all British bronze implements are made of copper and tin ; it is possible that some may be composed of copper and zinc, but I have never met with an example. These two metals, copper and tin, were either imported separately, in a fused state, or found in this country. Now on examination of the tin and copper mines of England, the former exhibit unequivocal signs of having been worked in ancient times ; and there can be no doubt whatever that the Britons supplied themselves with tin from their own mines. With regard to copper the case is different. The geologists all tell us that the copper mines in this country exhibit no traces of ancient working. We are told by Pliny that the Britons imported their copper. It is probable all the weapons, implements, &c., of the Aboriginies, down to the time of the Roman invasion, were made of bronze. The quantity of copper imported then must have been very great ; but the quantity of tin exported from the mines of Cornwall must have been also very large, for the nations of the ancient world severally made use of the mixture called bronze of copper and tin. With the exception of Spain, Britain is the only country that could supply tin. We have the evidence of a



CELTS, IN THE POSSESSION OF J. WILKES, ESQ.

vast commerce, not of luxuries, but a commerce of necessities; for the bronze of the ancients was to them what iron is to us. The next question is, who had the carrying on of this trade—who brought copper to the shores of Britain carrying away in exchange tin?—for these two metals would naturally be bartered for each other, and the people who conducted the trade would naturally be those who had the command of the seas. But another question besides arises, what country supplied the copper from its mines? for till we determine this accurately we cannot trace the whole course of the trade. We know from the Old Testament that from the earliest times the Phœnicians had the command of the Mediterranean. From Tyre and Sidon, they spread along the shores of Sicily and Africa, established themselves at Carthage, near Gibraltar, and at Gades (Cadiz). After them, about 600 B. C., the Phocians sailed from Ionia to Cadiz, opened a trade with the west of Europe, and subsequently founded Marseilles. They were probably rivals of the Phœnicians from this time; but the Phœnician navy, at the time of the Persian war, was far more powerful than that of any Grecian state. This we know from Herodotus, who gives us the relative number of ships in the Greek and Persian navies. Another very powerful navy at this time was that of Cyprus, also a Phœnician state. Carthage and Gades were both, in very early times, powerful naval states. Nearer Britain,

Rufus Avienus says, that Tartesian merchants traded with the inhabitants of the tin country, by which it is evident they must have sailed from Cadiz to Cornwall. We know Cadiz and Marseilles to have been places of great wealth,—such as the *entrepôts* of such a trade must naturally have been. Lastly, we know that from the earliest times it was customary to exchange cargoes of metals for one another. In the first *Odyssey*, a mariner is introduced sailing with a cargo of iron to Tenessa, to receive copper in exchange. In the views I have taken, I have spoken of a trade in the necessaries, not the luxuries, of life. It is possible that other things besides copper were brought into the island. Strabo says, that copper implements, pottery, and salt, were given to the inhabitants of the Cassiterides, by the Phœnicians, in exchange for tin. It is not certain that he means by Cassiterides here the mainland of Cornwall, or even the Scilly Isles, as is generally supposed, but it is probable that the Britons received such articles in barter for their tin. But that unwrought copper was the staple of exchange, and not pottery or copper implements, may be inferred from the fact, that nothing has ever been found in England, either of pottery or bronze, which can be called Phœnician; and that we have, on the other hand, satisfactory proof, from the discovery of lumps of mixed metal and moulds for celts, that the Britons made their own bronze instruments, and were not dependent on

the Phœnician manufactures. Great quantities of glass beads are found in barrows, &c., and are thought to be importations from Phœnicia. But it is more probable that these were introduced by the Romans, as we find them in the later but not in the earlier barrows. Amber, necklaces, torques, and such things passed in trade between Britain and Gaul in the time of Strabo; hides were also an article of export from Britain; but all this merchandize was, I should think, altogether subordinate in comparison with the copper and tin trade.”

DISCOVERY OF BRITISH REMAINS

AT WENDEN, ESSEX, FEB. 1847.

THE discovery of antiquarian remains in the above-named village, interesting to all, is especially so to me, in furthering my researches respecting the origin, date, customs, &c., of our ancestors,—the primeval inhabitants of the soil,—and these peculiar sources of attraction I shall now proceed to illustrate. Throughout the subsequent pages, I have endeavoured to trace a kind of connected chain of the tombs of the early British, extending from west to east: the nearest to the latter point of these sepulchres yet discovered is in the parish of Chrishall, contiguous to a farm called ‘the Grange.’

In the pursuit of ancient remains, as in every event of life, one thing leads on almost imperceptibly to another; so the examination of the mound at Elmdon produced the discovery of the celts and bronze weapons, previously alluded to. These, therefore, combined with those now existing at Wenden, may justify me, I hope, with antiquarian readers, in removing the Eastern Counties Terminus further east, and fixing it for the present in juxtaposition to its Northern and Eastern brother in the parish of Wenden Ambo. It must be allowed that in neither case was any mound brought to light, nor did the tradition of the neighbourhood even assert that any such elevation had ever existed. Still we may fairly conjecture, that as these barrows seldom reach to any great altitude, probably the plough and spade may have gradually levelled what the Celtic nation took such pains to raise,—rendered more probable in the instance now about to be quoted, where the *fertile* site was a private flower-garden.

Towards the western terminus these sepulchres become more frequent, in which direction I have traced them as far as Royston: there, even at the present day, the country is an open, champaign tract, rapidly, however, becoming enclosed; while about Wenden it is altogether more abrupt and woody. Here, then, we have a fresh illustration of the habits of occupation of our Celtic fathers,—that, leading a nomadic pastoral life, perhaps sub-

ject to a patriarchal government, they indulged their fondness for horses, and frequented the plains after the manner of the Red Indian denizens of the great western prairies of the present day. The difference of the nature of the country about Wenden from that at Royston may be aptly pourtrayed in the words of Horace :—

“ Non est aptus equis Ithacæ locus ; ut neque planis porrectus spatiis, neque multæ prodigus herbæ. ”

On the death of the proprietor, the late Mr Scott, the pleasure-ground alluded to passed into the hands of Mr Bird of Saffron Walden, whose workmen, in the course of extensive improvements, made the discovery of the British remains already mentioned ; and to his kindness I am indebted for the following particulars : he was also so good as to present to my Museum the articles disinterred.

On reaching the depth of three or four feet, on the northern side of the locale called ‘ Myrtle Hill,’ the labourers came unexpectedly upon an extremely rude flagon-shaped vase, of unbaked unburnt clay ; being totally unprepared for its appearance, they unfortunately inflicted on it a blow with the pickaxe, and, unconscious of the value of such objects, threw aside the broken pieces, which could otherwise have been easily restored, judging by the portion that remained ; even now, though mutilated, the pottery is wonderfully perfect. It bears marks of having been moulded by the hand merely, without attempt

at ornament of any kind ; there were no signs of burnt bones, or vestiges of fire in its vicinity, but it was deposited solely on a substratum of gravel. In close contact with the vase were three iron spear heads, very much corroded, about five inches in depth ; and on sending my servant to inspect the site and make enquiries, he picked up what proved to be an object of far greater interest than any of the preceding,—the iron boss of a British buckler. Most fortunate indeed was the chance that led to its rescue, for a short time would have demolished the whole, the poor ignorant labourers being in the act of amusing themselves by breaking the projecting rim, through which it was attached to the shield, as a practical illustration of the rotten condition of the iron. They owed to having re-interred, in the course of trenching, many other pieces of old iron, probably the frame-work of the targe ; also some small article, suspended from the top of the boss, perhaps a bead, for instances of such an appendage so applied have, I believe, occurred. The boss (of iron) is from three to four inches in height, shaped like a cone, and at the base two inches and a half in diameter ; it is pierced with holes, no doubt those of the nails by which it was affixed to the surface of the shield through the portion of the rim that had escaped devastation. If burnt bones originally formed part of the deposit, they were overlooked, or if they existed unburnt,

they probably crumbled away on exposure to the air. No elevation that I can detect had ever been raised on the spot ; there is however a green lane, a few feet distant, which I had often previously fancied to have been a Roman way, tending to the south, which theory certainly rather derives confirmation by the recent discoveries.

ACCOUNT OF THE EXAMINATION

OF SOME

BRITISH BARROWS, NEAR TRIPLOW, CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

IN the month of July, 1846, I directed the steps of my excavators westward, the state of my health being such as to preclude the possibility of my taking part in any violent exercise, and amused myself, in default of better occupation, by the examination of several British barrows, of which I had ascertained the existence, in the course of hunting with my beagles in the preceding spring, situated between a newly-purchased estate of my father's, at Heydon, Essex, and the village of TripLOW, Cambridgeshire. They are on the property of — Perkins, Esq., at present a minor, and in the occupation of Mr Ellis of that place, a most anxious and zealous promoter of my research, to whom my best acknowledgments

are due for his attention ; at the same time that gentleman held out very small hopes of my success, never having heard of the discovery of any antiquities in the neighbourhood. I was enabled, however, to ascertain that one of the largest of these tumuli had been partially examined by Dr Bernard, some fifty or sixty years before, after which it had been overthrown, and carried out to spread over the fields for agricultural purposes. Its remains too attest the truth of this tale ; and I may as well observe here, that this is the nearest mound to Triplow of the two which lie to the west of the Royston and Newmarket road. An eye-witness of Dr Bernard's operations describing them to me, said that he (the Doctor) attacked this tumulus as being the largest, encamping near it with ten men ; but meeting with no remains or success to reward his efforts, shortly abandoned the task as useless. The smaller one exhibited evident marks of having been impaired by the spade, but I was assured, merely, for the benefit of the soil. I must not, however, omit a rumour still current in Triplow village, of two swords being in existence, which were taken out of the barrow in the course of these operations, and I took the trouble to verify personally the accuracy of this tradition ; but a long hunt brought to light nothing besides an old cavalry sword, reported to have appertained to a highwayman of notoriety, who was executed at Chelmsford a hundred years ago, and a rapier with silver-plated

hilt and handle, of the period of George I. These however their several owners refused to part with, the possessor of the robber's sword, saying, he "set great store by it," regarding it, probably, as a *family relic*, and proof of his *honourable* descent. So terminated my fruitless *chasse*; but I gathered enough, *during the run*, to lead to the conclusion that, if the barrow ever contained swords, they were sold long since at Cambridge, where nearly all the remains found in this neighbourhood have in past years graduated, unless previously pounced upon by some lucky chance.

Among the large enclosures which comprehend what was once Triplow Heath, and which have been recently completed, a number of tumuli rear (I may say it literally) their diminished heads; for the plough and spade of the husbandman have encroached on their limits, and curtailed considerably their fair proportions: they are at unequal distances from one another, and of a very irregular shape and size, extending over, as far as I can guess, from the easternmost as yet known to me, nearly six miles; they appear to progress in a sort of diagonal line from the north-east to the south-west, and I have just heard of five more existing near Melbourn, in Cambridge-shire, within a mile and a half of Royston, by which the chain is considerably extended; and their tending to the south-west becomes more evident, to an observer who will at the same time remark the country to have been waste and barren near their

site, as it must indeed remain from the poverty of the soil ; but more of this hereafter, when I hope to be able to speak with more confidence on the subject, as well as the nature of these erections.

Tradition has assigned their origin, as far as one can trust so vague a source, (for, with the exception of the one alluded to above, they have never been examined scientifically, or by the curious,) to the British ; and the excavations into those I have been engaged in, carry out this position as far as their antiquity is concerned.

Examination of Barrow number 1. Situation—two miles from the village of Triplow, within one hundred yards, on the west side, of the Newmarket and Royston turnpike road : shape—circular at apex, resembling the section of an orange ; small in size, and of inconsiderable height. It would appear that this mound has been cultivated and ploughed over since the memory of man. I commenced operations on this tumulus by driving a shaft horizontally through the centre, six feet in width, sinking it at the same time eight inches below the surface of the original soil. The first object that presented itself to our notice was a small fragment of black pottery, bearing evident marks of fire ; from its similarity to an urn in my Museum, found near Melford in Suffolk, in texture and marking clearly early British. Contiguous lay the jaw-bone of a horse, and on reaching the centre we came to the correspond-

ing bone, close to which lay a perfect skull, with the rest of the bones of the human frame; these as well as the pottery bore evident marks of fire, though they were substantially unburnt, probably from something to do with sacrificial offering in the process of interment. No other remains lay with them, excepting a bone skewer-shaped pin, made from the base of the rib of some small animal,—the marks of its connection with the dorsal vertebre at the base of the thick end of the implement being very apparent; it had most likely been used for fastening the garments, which we may conclude in those early times, were of skin. A transverse cutting exhibited nothing further; but in filling in, a rude third brass coin of Valentinian I. was elicited—no criterion or authority for fixing the date, beyond limiting the antiquity of the interment; Roman money, as well as rude imitations, being in use long after the conquerors had evacuated the island.

In the opinion of E. Jones, Esq., late surgeon of Saffron Walden, who minutely examined the skull and bones, we may draw the conclusion that they were those of a young male in the prime of life, probably a warrior, and from their healthy appearance, and the perfect preservation of the teeth, that he came to a sudden and violent end (and was not the victim of disease or slow decay) in some engagement, and here found burial with his favourite steed. In this custom we may again trace the analogy I have

before alluded to, with the habit and manners of the prairie Indians of North America, who buried their coursers with their masters, to be in readiness for use in the happy hunting-grounds, for the chase or for war, as occasion required. This idea seems to have prevailed in all ages; and it is one of the most beautiful ones of the ancient mythology, that after death the deceased followed their favourite pursuits while alive, in the shades below: alluding to it Virgil has,—

“quæ gratia currum
 Armorumque fuit vivis, quæ cura nitentes
 Pascere equos eadem sequitur tellure repostos.”

I always think the epithet “nitentes” carries out so forcibly and poetically the care and attention bestowed in feeding and grooming their coats by their riders. But to return. I must beg my readers to pardon the inaccuracy with regard to details of size and other minutiae, for I have had the misfortune to lose or mislay my notes taken at the time; the diameter, however, as near as I can recollect, was nine feet, which will give a circumference of nearly thirty.

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS OF BARROW

No. 1.

- 1, Fragment of rude Pottery, burnt.
- 2, Jaw-bone of a Horse.
- 3, The corresponding bone.
- 4, Perfect Skeleton of a Male adult.
- 5, Pin, made of bone.
- 6, Rude third brass coin of Valentinian I.

I have so recently described, in my "*Antiqua Explorata*," the examination of the remaining four tombs in the vicinity of Triplow, that I shall merely annex a summary of their contents, with the observation, that they were very similar,—all containing burnt bones, with fragments of pottery, but no remains of importance or value.

BARROW No. 2. (*Imperfectly examined.*)

Contents:—The bottom of a large glass Bottle, and burnt remains of some animal of the ox tribe.

BARROW No. 3.

Burnt human Bones; also those of a horse.

BARROW Nos 4 AND 5, OR TWIN BARROW.

1, Perfect human Skeleton, unburnt.

2, Three parts of a sun-baked rude cinerary Vase, bearing evident marks of the fire.

With Barrow No. 5, my excavations of these tumuli terminated for last year.

The following is an account of the examination of the tallest and most conspicuous of a group of British Barrows, five in number, undertaken at the invitation of Mr Baker, the tenant of the field, or rather locality, for it forms part of the open country, as yet only partially enclosed, near Royston, from

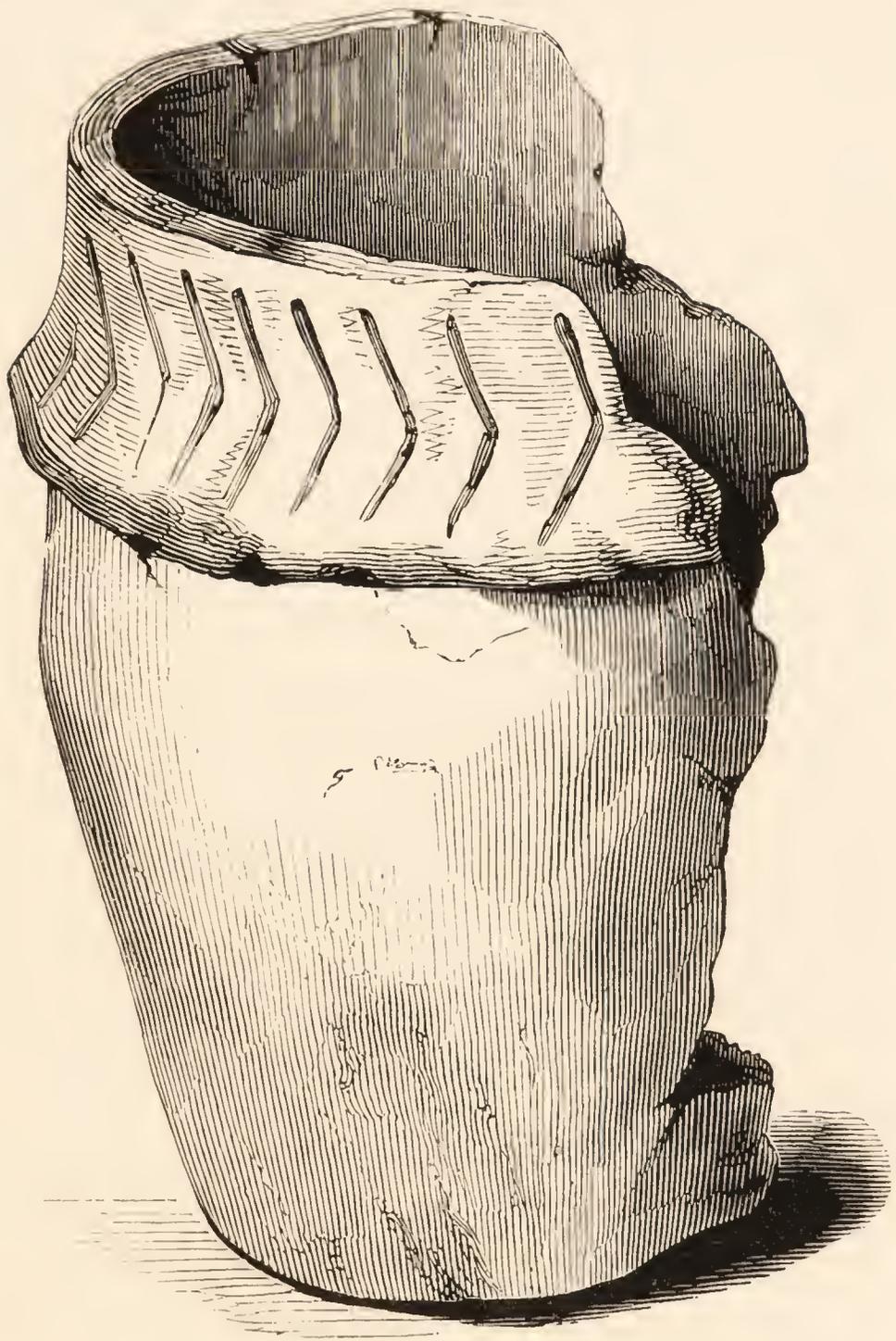
which town indeed it is distant but a mile and a half; from Melbourn in Cambridgeshire, two, and from Barkway, three miles. As I have said, the barrows are five in number, and

“ Campus ab illis ”

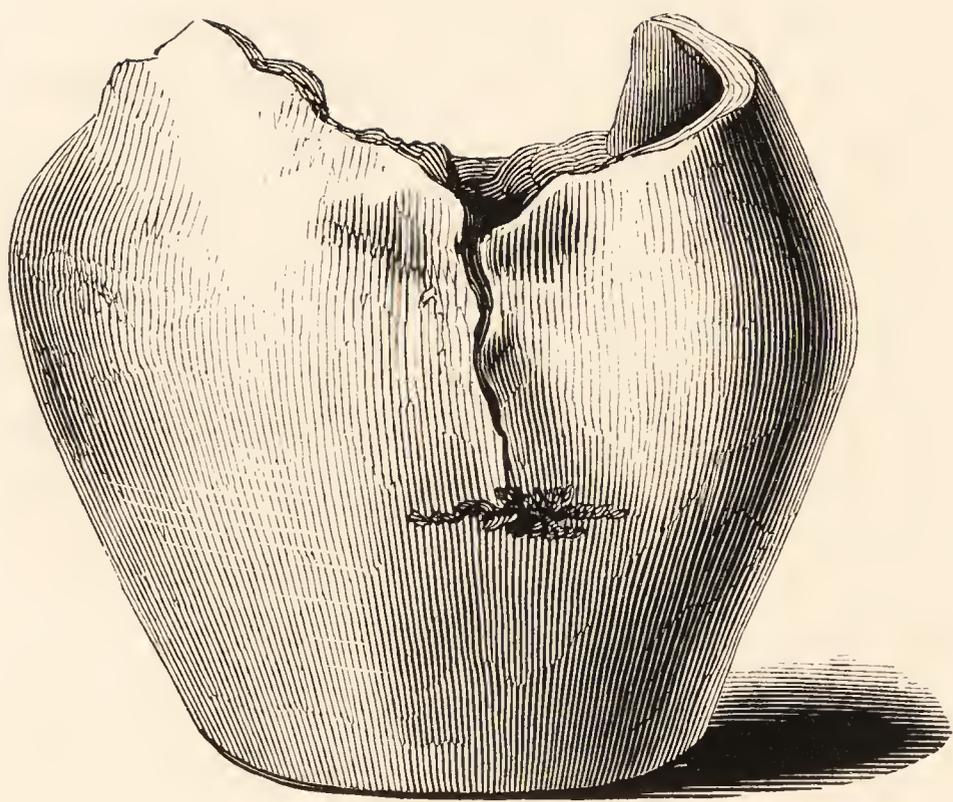
“ Dicitur æternumque tenet per secula nomen, ”

being known in the vicinity of their site, as ‘ Five-hill field.’ The one I have now investigated is the most considerable of the whole group, in themselves a remarkable feature of this part of the country, most rich in remains of the ancient Britons; though, judging from my Triplow Heath excavations, not of the wealthiest tribes. Situated on the summit of a very steep hill, they are conspicuous, and command an extensive view of the adjacent flat; favouring the opinions of Professor Henslow in this respect, who has conjectured them to have been used as beacons; they are certainly, however, of a sepulchral character, as I shall presently shew to have been the case with this one. In shape nearly oval, it was longer perhaps than was altogether proportioned to its circular form; and I do not think I can better describe the appearance it presented than by a reference to “ Fosbrooke’s Antiquities, ” whose detail of the “ Long Barrow ” and its contents, coincides most remarkably with the one under present consideration.

Prefacing the account of the operations by observing that the alternate strata of black and white mould,



URN OF UNBAKED CLAY, FOUND, AS WELL AS THOSE IN THE
FRONTISPIECE, IN A BARROW AT MELBOURNE.



FOUND IN A BARROW AT MELBOURNE.

which were unbroken throughout the structure, afford incontestible proof that the mound had never been disturbed; I will only add, that the black soil does not at this present moment exist within two or three miles, that of the hill being of pulverized chalk. Its diameter is fifty-four feet, and depth ten feet. Four men began digging on Monday, March the 8th, who on the following day discovered one small cinerary vase of unbaked clay, and very rude, four feet deep from the superior surface of the barrow, and a human skeleton, three and a half feet deep, and twelve from the vase.

Wednesday the 10th introduced the excavators to a second cinerary vase, two and a half feet deep; and on Thursday they discovered a skull of some animal, pronounced by Professor Owen to be that of a badger, and a horn of a roebuck.

Friday the 12th: A third cinerary vase, three feet deep, and a most singular small vessel, inverted, at the depth of six feet, which I should conjecture to have been used either as a lamp or thuribulum: beyond it lay a very perfect skeleton, in fine preservation, two feet deep,—that of a male of fifty or sixty years. I must here observe that the latter was nearer the exterior surface than any other remain. The thuribulum and the three vases, of which the appearance and dimensions are described below, are all composed of clay, unbaked, and very rude. The labourers having commenced at the east, and work-

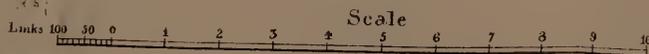
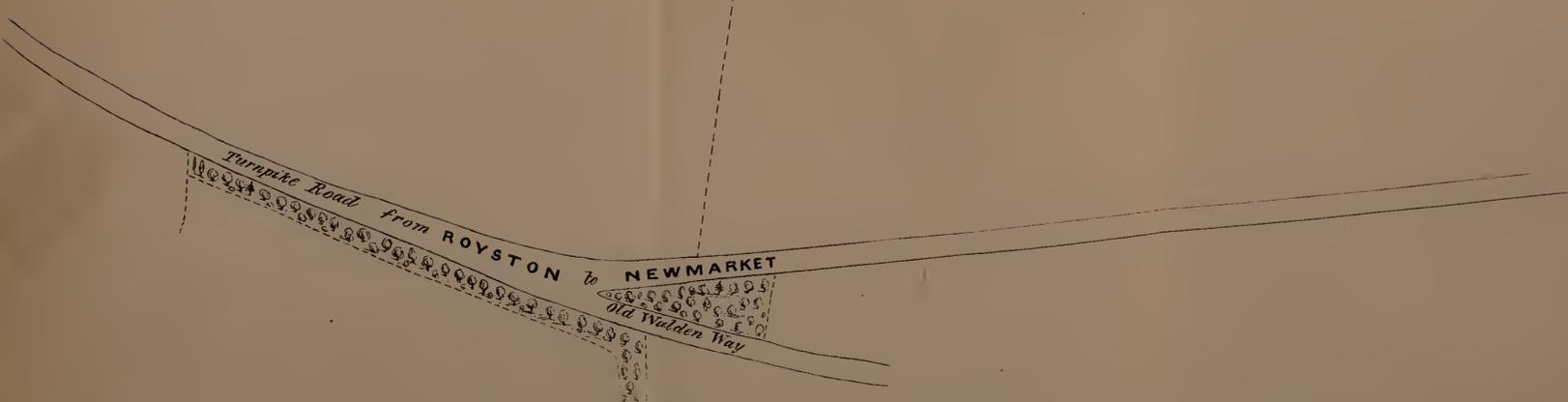
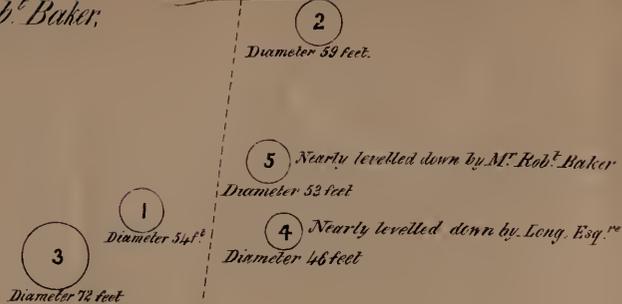
ing towards the west, finished on Friday the 19th; nothing else being elicited of much interest, excepting charcoal in very small patches all the way through, the horn of a roebuck, a small double buckle of the very peculiar yellow British bronze, and two minute fragments of bright red pottery. Thus terminated the examination of the largest barrow, containing four hundred and ninety loads of earth: the human remains bore no traces of cremation, and none of them were below, or even rested upon the virgin soil, which consisted of solid clunch chalk, and on being bared, much resembled a threshing-floor. An earthwork, or kind of covered way, must not be omitted, running across from southwest to north-east, about one hundred and fifty yards from the western side of the tumulus. At the distance of two miles from this spot there is another of the same description, but without the covered way, in direction apparently from west to east. It extends as far as the eye can reach to the westward, to Heydon on the east, passing to the south of Little Chishall:—all this country exhibits evident marks of occupation, and that probably by large bodies of men.

The foregoing investigation confirms an opinion I have long held with regard to British barrows, that cutting through and digging to the centre is useless in general, though it may be accidentally successful, and this idea I have derived from experience, having

PLAN OF TUMULI
in a Field in the occupation of M^r Rob^t Baker,
 in the Parish of
MELBOURNE.

taken March,
 1847.

FIVE HILL FIELD



N^o 3.
 Diameter 72 feet. Height 5 feet.
 Circumference 226^{ft}

N^o 1
 Diameter 54 feet. Height 10^{ft}
 Circumference 169 feet.

N^o 2
 Diameter 59^{ft}. Height 4 feet.
 Circumference 185 feet.

N^o 4.
 Diameter 46^{ft}. Height 3^{ft}
 Circumference 144 feet

N^o 5.
 Diameter 52^{ft}. Height 2^{ft}
 Circumference 166 feet

examined several. The position of the remains in the present instance was such as to have made it more than probable, from the magnitude of the mound, that had this plan been adopted the excavators would have missed the articles in their progress to the centre; and even had they driven horizontal shafts in different directions, on reaching it,—from the distance intervening between each vase, and their diminutiveness,—it is fair to conjecture that they might have been easily overlooked altogether. Added to which, when we reflect that each was separate, and no deposit *en masse*, such a result would cease to be a matter of surprise. Of course I do not expect any one to adopt my suggestion, or place any reliance on this idea, knowing, indeed, that antiquarians are ordinarily very loath to admit theories foreign to their own, or the commonly accredited version in such cases. For myself, however, my conviction is so strong as to serve as a guide in future operations, when I may perchance be fortunate enough to throw more light on the subject.

A summary of the articles found here is annexed, with their dimensions and description, as well as a correct report of the surgical examination of the skeletons; together with an ably-executed plan of the group of barrows, with their relative size and proportions, by T. Cracknell, Jun., of Saffron Walden.

LIST OF REMAINS

DISINTERRED FROM A BRITISH BARROW, NEAR ROYSTON,
MARCH 20TH, 1847.

BARROW No. 1:

Diameter, 54 feet ; Circumference, 169 feet ; Height, 10 feet.

No. 1. Small cinerary Vase of unbaked clay, shaped like an inverted cone, with a rim having a sloping roof, and an ornament apparently produced by the finger nail: very rude.

Height, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; depth, 4 inches ; diameter at top, 5 inches ; ditto at base, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; circumference at top, 14 inches ; ditto at base, 9 inches ; depth of sloping roof, 1 inch.

This vessel contained one piece of charcoal ; it was taken out very little injured from the barrow, and well restored, though it appeared to be impossible, as did the restoration of No. 2 ; both however were ingeniously effected by my servant, as far as the fragments would suffice.

No. 2. Another small cinerary Vase, being similar in appearance, but rather larger than the preceding.

Height, 6 inches ; depth, 5 inches ; depth of sloping roof, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches ; diameter at top, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; ditto at base, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches ; circumference at top, 18 inches ; ditto at base, $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

No. 3. Very small cinerary Vase, without a detached roof.

Height, 3 inches ; depth, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; circumference at top, 10 inches ; ditto at base, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; diameter at top, 3 inches ; ditto at base, 2 inches ; slope 1 inch.

This mound contained none of the calculi mentioned by Professor Henslow.

No. 4. A Thuribulum, or charcoal burner, none of the burnt wood, however, was near it. It is circular, and was inverted when found, resembling in that position a broad-brimmed hat; having a horizontal rim, serrated on the external edge, and ornamented with the same pattern as No. 1, cinerary vase; pierced at irregular intervals with small holes all round, seven in number, and about three-quarters of an inch beneath the rim. It is very perfect, and altogether a most singular vessel; I have seen but one of the kind (the one I allude to is figured in Sir R. Hoare's Wiltshire), but I cannot discover any other which bears a resemblance to it elsewhere. Dimensions as follows:—

Height, nearly $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches; depth, more than 1 inch; circumference at top, interior circle, 3 inches; ditto at exterior or ornamented edge, $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches; diameter at top, 2 inches; ditto at base, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; breadth of projecting rim, $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch.

No. 5. Double bronze Buckle. (British.)

No. 6. Two very perfect bits of dried Charcoal.

SUMMARY OF HUMAN BONES

FOUND IN BARROW No. 1, ON MELBOURNE HEATH,

Consisting of portions of two Skeletons;—

Of the first, there were only two bones at the time we visited it, though the men report that others were dug out of the same size, and taken away previous to our arrival; those which remained were the Thigh-bone, and the right Os innominatum, or bone of the pelvis. From their size, and from the absence of their epiphyses, they appeared to have belonged to a person of from twelve to sixteen years of age.

Of the second skeleton, all parts were perfect. From the size and strength of the bones, and from the shape of the pelvis, it appeared to have belonged to a male of mature age. In both cases the bones were extremely brittle, nothing remaining but earthy matter, even the largest and strongest bones crumbling

upon the slightest pressure. Portions of the skeleton of a horse were also discovered.

I attended these examinations in person most of each day, up to Friday the 19th, when that of this barrow, (No. 1 in size, as well as precedence in order of attack,) terminated without anything further being unearthed. By Saturday evening, therefore, my head-workman was enabled to report the force under him as having broken ground, and made considerable progress in the first parallel, and ready to commence the attack on Barrow No. 2 on the following Monday. I proceed with the account of the subsequent operations, merely stating that this mound lies to the westward of No. 1, and is raised on the verge of the covered way described above.

BARROW No. 2.

Circumference, 185 feet ; Height, 4 feet.

Monday, March 22nd. Six of my workmen commenced turning over this barrow, making allowances for a few irregularities on the surface occasioned by the lapse of time. The mound is circular, and raised from the edge of the covered way, from which its materials were probably collected. Its appearance exhibited a mixture of black earth, with the original chalk soil, consisting of solid clunch, and forming a bottom as firm as though it were paved throughout. The tumulus having been prepared to facilitate the

excavations, rather more than half was examined in the presence of myself and sister, who was equally interested in the research. The operations were commenced from the north towards the south side of the tomb, and at the distance of six feet from the centre towards the north, we found an oven-shaped hole of one span in diameter. It bore evident traces of fire, and extended to the depth of three inches below the clunch or virgin soil, being nearly filled with burnt fragments of human remains, as well as with those of animals, whose origin we could not trace, from their being literally baked and mashed up together. Charcoal in a mass with burnt earth was enclosed in this sarcophagus, and the strata we found to run in a perpendicular direction about three inches in diameter; and in the centre towards the south side, at the depth of four inches from the upper surface, we disinterred a *very* large horn of a stag, so large indeed, that I should think none of that size exist at the present day. A little further south, one and a half feet deep, appeared a beautifully-preserved coin of Marcus Aurelius. in first brass: patina very fine; legend, "ANTONINUS AUG. ARMENIACUS" on the *obverse*: *reverse*, a winged Victory, to the right, holding a spear, a figure seated on the ground; legend, "VICT. AUG. TRXR. VIII. IMP. II. COS. III. S.C." in the field. Then the unbaked bottom of a small vase, blackened, in all probability, in the course of cremation at the burial.

BARROW No. 3.

*Diameter, 72 feet; Circumference, 226 feet; Height, 5 feet :
nearly circular.*

This mound, although presenting the largest surface of ground, contained but little in the shape of antiquarian remains. It is situated nearly to the south side of the highest barrow, and was trenched from east to west in the course of ten days. There was a stratum of the same black mould, extending in a perpendicular line from one end to the other. So little remark is called for on its contents, that I merely relate them as they were discovered. Their chief feature consists in further illustrating the poverty of a particular class of these elevations, as well as in furnishing a proof of their being designed for sepulchral purposes.

First, and nearest the east end, the Horn of a fallow-deer.

2, One Badger's Skull, and portions of the frame of another.

3, A solitary lump of Charcoal, small, and the only one in this mound.

4, Skull of a third Badger, very perfect.

5, Thirty-three feet from the west-end, Human Skeleton, nearly entire, lying towards the south-west by south. Depth, one-eighth of an inch.

6, A deposit of Snails' Shells, *en masse*, on virgin soil: for food? or as a symbol of salacity?

7, Skeletons of five Males, all lying as before, south-west by west. All the bones tolerably perfect except the skull, those of two only being discovered; though, on a surgical comparison, 12

thigh-bones appeared, 6 pairs corresponding. In the opinion of the anatomist, all these were males.

8, A Pike-head of iron, much corroded, lay two and a half feet from the northern exterior of the tomb, and six from the nearest skeleton toward the western end.

March 29th : On this day the men completed the excavations, without having found any signs of cremation, except the piece of charcoal before-mentioned : in this respect all the portions of bone were intact.

EXAMINATION OF A BRITISH BARROW,

MONDAY, MAY 3RD, 1847.

Dimensions of the Mound :—Diameter, 37 feet ; Circumference, 110 feet.

The peculiar features of interest in this tomb, consisted in its containing two bodies, which were deposited in the same grave, although clearly buried in distinct modes. This sepulchre, which is a twin one, is situated a mile and a half to the west of Hayden, near the farm of Chrishall Grange, in the occupation of Mr Ellis. My head-man repaired thither on the 3rd of May with five others, in order to make the necessary preparations for my inspecting the tumulus on the following morning, when, in spite of the unfavorable state of the weather, I visited the spot in person. On my arrival there I found the

men digging from east to west ; and rather to the west of the centre, they had exhumed the same kind of remains as on former occasions, with some little variations. It proved, however, a very uninteresting tomb, rich only in its poorness, if I may so say ; but in spite of its poverty, the contents are worthy of some remarks : they were as follows :—

- 1, Nearest the west, several portions of flint Knives.
- 2, Fragments of light-red Pottery, rude, but baked.
- 3, Skeleton of a Male, very perfect, exhibiting no marks of cremation. Examined by J. D. Wright, Esq., Grenadier Guards.
- 4, A second human Skeleton, interred with cremation, the bones being broken up as well as burnt, so as to leave no traces of their origin.
- 5, A small iron Knife, bearing marks of fire.
- 6, Bones of at least one Horse, also burnt.
- 7, The fragments of bronze Fibulæ, very strongly plated, but injured by the flames.

No other antiquities were discovered in the remainder of the mound. I shall therefore subjoin some remarks on it, commencing with an opinion which I formed at the time, and which indeed I think the results of the investigation almost warrant ; but I must leave it to my readers' determination when they have considered what I shall offer in its support. Here we have one tumulus, containing two different modes of interment, which were customary at two distinct periods ; one Roman, the other British ; the habits of the former were, we

know, adopted in after ages by the latter nation ; they introduced, however, many variations. It is clear therefore that the two bodies above alluded to were not placed in the ground at the same period, although it is probable that no great time elapsed between the interments ; but the further we investigate the subject of these remains, the more difficult we find it to arrive at any definite conclusion. Were they family mausoleums ? were they raised over one individual ? or do they contain two, or in some cases more than two, merely because the persons met their death at a period subsequent to the original erection in its immediate vicinity ? It is, however, worthy of observation in the present instance, how the accompanying remains coincide with the difference of date of the two interments. First, nearest the east with the unburnt skeleton, we found the flint weapons, acknowledged to be the earliest relics of the earliest inhabitants of our island, who being very poor, probably had nothing of more value to offer. Next we came to the burnt bones, the iron knife, and the fragments of bronze fibulæ, an ornament peculiarly Roman, which was covered with a plating, and would therefore induce us to suppose it belonged to a later period, and would tend to confirm the two distinct burials. My only object in endeavouring to prove this is to throw as much light as possible on the method and customs which were observed in the formation of these tombs ; and here let

me further remark that this is another satisfactory proof of the practice of interring horses with their riders. The burnt bones, which lay in close contiguity to the intact skeleton in the same barrow, were in such a state of decay as to defy any conjecture as to the age and sex of the deceased, which is a subject of great regret.

SUPPLEMENT TO No. 2

OF THE MELBOURNE GROUP OF BARROWS.

I have received from Professor Owen, F.S.A., a very kind note, in which he gives his opinion of the stag's horn from this tomb. I do not think I can do better than insert it in his own words: "It is the base of a very fine antler of the species of red-deer, co-existent with the mammoth."

CONCLUSION OF THE EXAMINATION OF THE BARROWS
AT MELBOURNE.

EXAMINATION OF A FIELD

AT CHESTERFORD, IN THE SPRING OF 1847.

The great object of all antiquarian researches is, the accumulation of a number of authenticated occurrences, which, by corroborating one another

when collected and compared, establish data by which may be determined certain historical facts, such as the settlement of a camp or station, how long the occupation lasted, by whom and how that occupation was effected, and finally, when and in what manner it terminated. Difficult as this seems at first sight, experience proves it to be perfectly possible, and this remark will be found especially applicable to instances in which the Roman invaders of our island are concerned, arising principally from the vast quantities and variety of remains, such as coins, fragments of fictile vessels, domestic utensils, implements of war, and ornamental appendages usually to be met with wherever they rested, even for a short time. The peculiar nature, too, of the character of their interments, such as the including divers, and in many cases valuable articles, according to the rank and station of the deceased. In the urn with his ashes are found most useful guides and co-operators in pursuing these investigations; to do this however effectually, and fully carry out the object of the examination, it is essentially necessary to note at the time the nature of whatever relics may be discovered, their relative position, and most particularly their condition, and especially with coins the state of preservation. Accuracy in all these minutiae cannot be too strictly enforced; and many little circumstances which appear at the time trifling and comparatively useless, will be found af-

terwards most valuable in the great mass of evidence, and be a subject of great regret if neglected. I am glad therefore to have it in my power at present to produce a considerable quantity of confirmatory evidence of remains disinterred from what I consider more especially my own hunting-ground, the Roman Station at Chesterford; and am only pleased to have an excuse for revisiting the former scenes of my, I hope, not unprofitable labours. The discoveries I allude to have not, except in my own instances, been recent, but the account of them is new, and the authority indisputable, by which the value of the account is enhanced.

I begin with the following facts, most kindly communicated to me by the Bishop of London, who in early life, commenced his clerical duties in the parish of Great Chesterford, in which, during the time he was a resident, the following discoveries were made. Several small vases were taken out a few inches below the surface of a field a little to the south of the London and Cambridge road, close to the site of the Northern and Eastern Railway Station. The vases containing the bones of some small animals were discovered, placed in a circle. On a fragment, which appeared to be part of the bottom of a cup, were the letters "AVENT," or "AVENTINI," the potter's mark, no doubt; for to the best of my belief, I have met with a similar one myself. The Bishop adds that the late Mr Edwards, the father, I con-

clude, of the present proprietor of the 'Crown Inn,' had a small glass bottle in his possession, hermetically sealed, taken out of the parish gravel-pit, or Borough Field; it contained a small quantity of liquid. To this I may add, that I have seen the bottle described, and as far as I can recollect from the cursory inspection I had the opportunity of making, it was opaquely transparent, resembling in shape, but rather larger than a hen's egg. I have never seen any similar to it: when shewn to me, it contained no fluid; but the owner complained that some person he had lent it to to examine, had pierced or otherwise injured it, so that the liquid had escaped.

The exhumation of these funereal urns above described, must have taken place either in 1823 or 1824: they are now in the collection of antiquities of the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge.

Since I collected the materials for my "*Antiqua Explorata*," I have discovered, in Douglas's scarce work on Sepulchral Antiquities, mention of some facts which singularly confirm some of my observations on the locality of Iceanum. As the work is very scarce, and the difficulty of obtaining it may prevent the generality of my readers from availing themselves of its pages, I have determined to give the substance of some of the most important parts in a few short extracts. That industrious antiquary appears to have instituted some excavations in this

vicinity, but very slight and superficial; for, disgusted with his want of success, he soon discontinued them. He says that, from some information he received, he employed men in excavating on the left of the London Road, to the south-west exterior of the ancient walls; but excepting fragments of pottery and ashes, the search proved unproductive of any remain of importance. In alluding to some vessel taken out subsequently at Chesterford, he says that three other similar ones, with pateræ of red ware, were in possession of a Mr Sheppard of Ickleton, of whom mention is made by Cole, the antiquarian, as having afforded him information relative to the Roman remains in that vicinity. The other corroborative testimony to which I allude, is in an instance which coincides with one of my discoveries. My readers will recollect, in my description of a beehive-shaped amphora, taken out from the Borough Field, that I noticed a quantity of the bones from some bird it had contained, and conjectured them to be those of a cock, as a sacrifice to Æsculapius; singularly enough Douglas says, describing a vase, “Found at Chesterford, containing the bones of a cock, close to a large urn with human ashes.” In accounting for the offering of this bird, he quotes from a very scarce book, ‘*Chartarius*;

indeed, till I read the passage, I was not aware of its existence; it is to this effect:—Socrates when dying, says to his friend Plato, “We owe a cock to Æsculapius; discharge that vow for me; pray do not forget it.”

“ Quare Socrates, ut apud Platonem exitat, jam moriturus, testamento gallum Æsculapio legat, ita sapientissimus vir innuens, de lucis usura, cujus est gallus nimeius, hoc est vitam divinæ bonitati omnium morborum curatrici, quam Æsculapius designat quæque divinæ providentiæ; ab Apolline adumbratæ est proles, restituere, aqua et mutato acceperat. ” *

I have copied this passage exactly from the note as it is given in Douglas's 'Nœnia,' though as it is there read and punctuated, it will, I think, puzzle most readers to give a satisfactory translation of it. In the same note Kirchman also is quoted, to shew that the Romans were in the habit of burying cocks; and in illustration of this, I have in my collection the leg and thigh of one of these birds dried mummy fashion, in fine preservation, which was taken out during the present spring, in excavating the Roman foundations at Hadstock, Essex.

I have occasion to continue the notices of Chesterford, in describing some further operations which I commenced on this station in March in the present year, during the course of which several relics were discovered, fairly entitled to honourable mention among the "*memorabilia*" of this place. The field which engaged my attention lies on the Cambridge road, farther north, and forms the boundary of my operations in that direction: it is a small allotment, at present occupied by Mrs Mason of Great Chesterford, about a quarter of a mile outside the old walls, and running parallel to that of Mr Barnard, in which

* Chartarius, translated by A. Verderius, p. 59.

I found the earthenware urns last November. I have divided the remains obtained from this excavation into three classes or denominations, to each of which I have annexed the remarks called for by their number, appearance, and state of preservation, particularly of coins, to which I have given precedence, and with which I commence accordingly. In this field comparatively few occurred, but these few are coincident with what I have previously noted; on this station in general, towards the west, the greatest number are found; indeed they are profusely abundant; nearly all however of the third brass of the Lower Empire fused, or otherwise injured by fire. Here, however, on the eastern side, the metal was of the early emperors of the first and middle brass, and in singularly fine condition, the patina being excellent; indeed, I have never seen any to equal these specimens exhumed. The money comprised,—

FIRST BRASS,

1 Trajan,	1 M. Aurelius Antoninus
1 Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Pius,	Pius,
1 Aurelius Cæsar,	1 Lucilla,
	1 Commodus Antoninus Pius.

SECOND BRASS.

1 Aurelius Cæsar,	1 Nerva,
1 Faustina Aurelia,	1 Vespasian,

Only one third brass occurs, that of P. Livius Constan-

tius, in an equally good state, leaving us to infer that the soil of this allotment was peculiarly favourable to the preservation of metal. Four of the large coins were discovered together; that of Lucilla, the daughter, adhering to one of Aurelius, the father, being attached, whether accidentally or no, by some glutinous substance; these two coins were accompanied by another of Aurelius, and one of Commodus Aurelius Antoninus Pius, the brother and son; both of the large brass. Remark, the large coin of Trajan has no reverse, I suppose from some imperfection in the striking; also, the reverses of the Aurelius family have all a figure, either standing or sitting, with a bird on the arm, stretched out as in the act of loosing a hawk for its flight. Also from the two allotments adjoining on the south, I have two first brass; one of Lucius Ælius, the other of Lucius Verus, who married Lucilla. Antoninus Pius has also been obtained from the immediate vicinity of this field. Lucius Verus, the son of Lucius Ælius, who married Lucilla, eventually assumed the purple on the death of her brother Commodus. Upon the whole, I think I am justified in giving a fancy name to this spot; I call it 'Aurelius's Field.'

To conclude the numismatic list, I must not omit a very remarkable feature; it is the eliciting a very small silver coin of, I conclude, the Cunobelin series, and I am informed by the authorities at the museum, of a new and hitherto unpublished type. There is

no legend : it is convex, and exhibits a horse on both *obverse* and *reverse*, accompanied by the wheels and other usual early British symbols.

This brings us to the second denomination of remains, under which I have classed the pottery and fragments of fictile ware, as well as portions of glass, which was unusually abundant for this Station, at this spot. I have noted before that less has been found in this neighbourhood in proportion to the earthenware than elsewhere. To the condition of the pottery, the same remark will be found applicable which comprehends the coins, namely, the preservation and patina were beautiful ; the ware almost all of the red glazed Samian, some of it embossed finely ; all the bottoms of pateræ exhibit a potter's name, in this respect differing from the specimens obtained nearer the walls ; all the Samian ware indeed is characterised by this mark ; and I think the superiority of its texture, as well as its being thus distinguished, will warrant our concluding that it was made abroad, and imported at the first invasion of Britain, and is to be considered therefore as a sign of an early occupation. One of my embossed specimens from this locality has the potter's mark of "JULI" in fine Roman capitals *up* the *exterior*. Before I quit the subject of this ware, the same curious circumstance calls for remark which I have before noticed ; it is, that in no instance do more than two or three portions of the same vessel of this material occur together ; indeed one would

be almost induced to suspect the original owners of the ware to have broken up the utensil carefully, and removed the fragments purposely to guard against the possibility of its being restored by those who came after; for instances have occurred in which some little distance elapsed between the exhumation of bits of evidently the same patera, and we are aware that the art of repairing the pottery was familiar to the Romans; two specimens in my collection establish this; one, the part of a patera of the embossed Samian ware, has been rivetted, while the other, a fine red amphora, has the handle affixed by a peg, which can be plainly ascertained by passing the hand down the interior.

The glass remains were portions of large square bottles, with a considerable piece of the neck and bulb of what were formerly taken for lachrymatories; now I believe more correctly described as unguentariums. The third class exhibits the usual number of bone pins and needles, one bronze spoon resembling that now used for salt, one or two iron styli, a bronze marrow-bone scoop, for so we should term it at the present day, and several iron pruning knives, spear heads, &c., with two or three most singularly-shaped instruments, apparently crooks: all the iron bears traces of fire, though bones of all sorts were rare; indeed there were no human remains. In nearly the last day's work in this field, about two yards to the south of the British coin, a yard west of

the Aurelius family coins, lay a small silver finger-ring, well set with a sardonyx, finely engraved with some mythological figure; the material of the silver was so much burnt as to render it necessary that the ring should be repaired, in order to ensure the safety of the stone; I had it therefore closely imitated and reset: the resemblance is perfect, and I doubt if the owner would know it from the original, could he see it again. I have shewn it to several antiquarians, but have heard no conjecture offered as to who or what the figure is intended to represent: it is singular, however, that it bears a bird on its outstretched arm, very like that of the reverse of the coin I have described above. This ring was the last remain taken out when the examination was closed, for this spring at least, the allotment being required for sowing with barley by its tenant. About two-thirds of it have been investigated, I can say, most attentively.

DISCOVERY OF ROMAN REMAINS,

IN THE PARISH OF ARKESDEN, ESSEX, IN THE AUTUMN OF
1845.

For the account of this find, together with the particulars of the locality, I am indebted to Samuel Fiske, Esq., of Saffron Walden, who was also kind

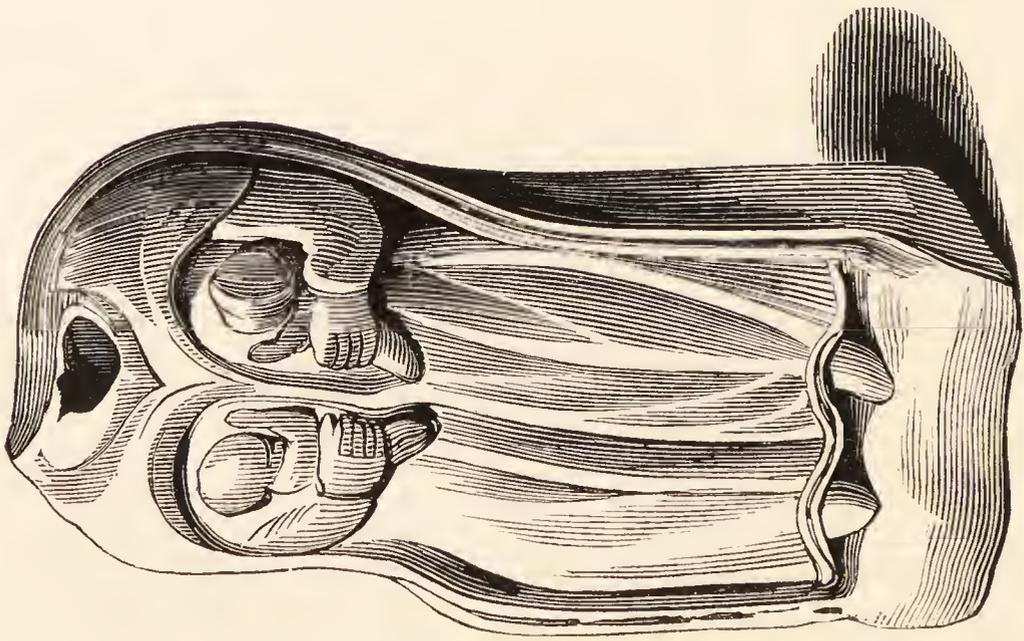
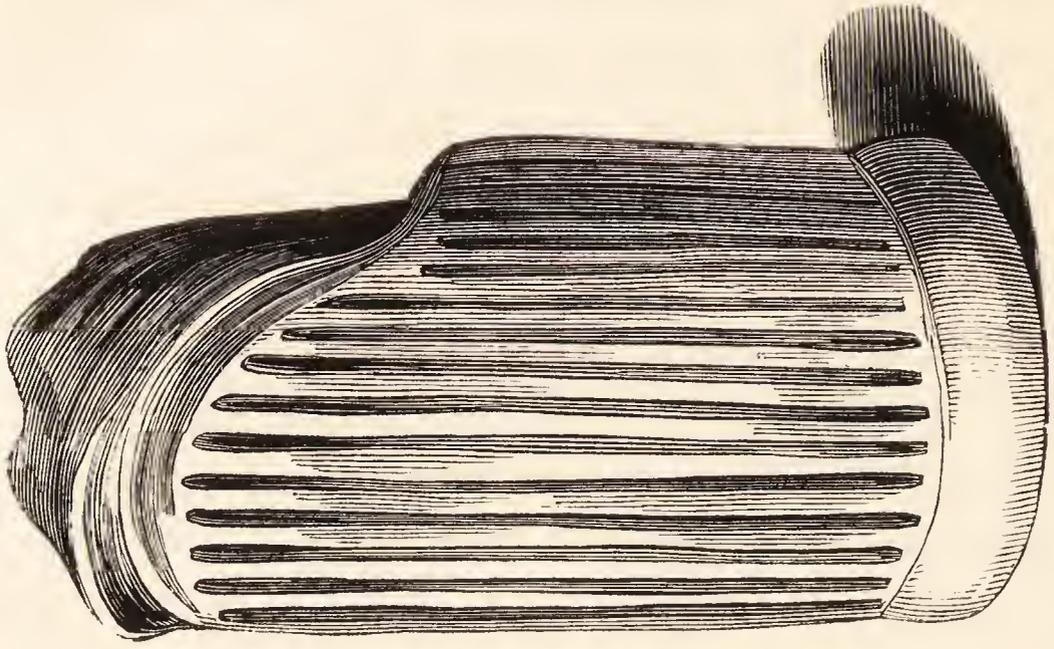


FIGURE IN TERRA COTTA FOUND AT ARKESDEN.

enough to present the relics described below to my collection. Were it not for the exertions of that gentleman, the occurrence would in all probability never have come to light, as the finder was a cottager, and, as usually is the case with the poorer class, set small store by the remains. When they were disinterred, the labourer was engaged in land-ditching; and in the open field, where there were no traces of any buildings or tumulus, came suddenly upon these vessels, deposited *en masse*.

1, A Bowl of embossed Samian ware, about 12 inches in circumference, and three or four in depth. The design represented on the exterior appears to be the common one, namely, the chase. The *tout ensemble* of the patera closely resembles a butter dish.

2, A Patera of fine red Samian ware, slightly broken.

3, A very diminutive flagon-shaped Bottle of stone-coloured ware.

4, A small Patera, apparently used as an unguentarium, two-inches-and-a-half in diameter.

5, Another Patera of the fine red glazed ware.

Last, and most curious, a small terra-cotta Female Figure, with two infants at the breasts. It is three inches in height; and since coming into Mr Fiske's possession has unluckily been mutilated, having lost its head by an accidental fall; still, however, it is highly interesting, and I believe that there is no instance of a similar one discovered in England. It may be considered as the symbol of plenty or fecundity.

These images were, I suspect, common among the Romans, and the vessels deposited with the present one contained, most likely, the accompaniments of

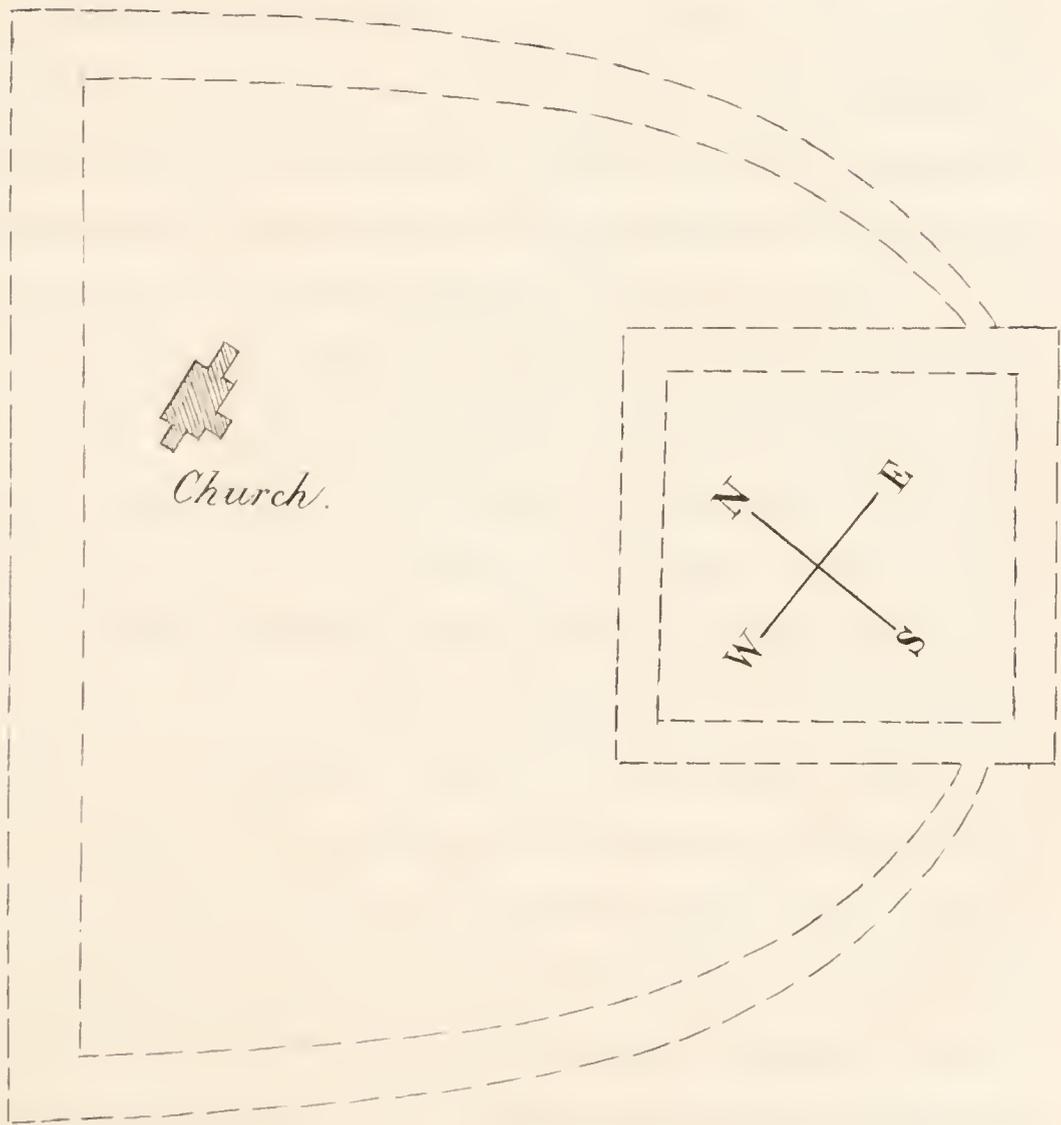
sacrifice on the occasion of its being offered. A similar figure is engraved in the '*Cours d'Antiquités Monumentales*,' found, I believe, in France. I think I am correct in saying that several instances of their being disinterred with other remains in that country are mentioned by Mont Fauçon. The coins in third brass of Theodora Flavia, the wife of Constantius, bear a similar reverse legend,—“*SALUS REI PUBLICÆ*:” one of these occurred at Chesterford in the Borough Field. Arkesden is five miles to the south of that station, unconnected however by any Roman way; nor can I discover any other traces of Roman occupation in the parish. This deposit lay fifteen inches below the surface.

EXCURSION TO THE RUINS OF CAMPS CASTLE,

WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THEM AS THEY APPEARED TO AN
ARCHÆOLOGICAL EYE, AT A CURSORY INSPECTION,
ON THURSDAY, JUNE 17TH, 1847.

CASTLE CAMPS. The parish which bears this, to all doubly significant, but to antiquarians most particularly interesting name, is situated about fifteen miles south-east of Cambridge, and at the south-east corner of the county;—the ancient seat of the Veres, earls of Oxford, the remains of whose castle are

CASTLE CAMPS .



still extant, and, together with works, numerous ditches, &c., are apparent, in tolerable preservation. It is well known that, in the immediate vicinity, their park was very extensive in the time of Edward III.

The name of Castle Camps admits of the possibility of a derivation of more ancient date, namely, from the Romans; of this the vicinity of the parish to the site of the Bartlow Hills, which are about three miles distant, encourages the idea. From what I could learn to-day, on a personal visit to the ruins, I could not find anything to confirm this impression, no remains of this people (the Romans) having been discovered in the immediate neighbourhood. Still however, to quote Carter's History of Cambridgeshire, one would conclude that the ancient Britons, and therefore probably the Latins, had some hand in excavating the vast fosses and dykes which I am about to describe below, and which form the principal feature which catches the eye even of the uninterested or accidental observer, who may chance to visit this part. The passage I allude to is as follows; —“Not far from hence (Castle Camps) are the remains of those great and large ditches, which were undoubtedly thrown up by the East Angles, to prevent the incursions of the Mercians, who frequently ruined all before them.” I should suspect that the historian in these lines has erred in over anxiety to account for the origin of the dykes in the defences

of the walls ; which would otherwise appear inexplicable, and a mystery not easily solved, by one at least wholly unacquainted with the extent and magnitude of the ruins of the fortress. The ditches are certainly of vast depth and width, and from the circumstance of their being at the present moment filled with water, impress one with the notion, perhaps erroneous, that in the days of the third Edward, before the use of fire-arms was familiar, the fort must have been wholly impregnable. The circumstance that it is perched upon the summit of a lofty and abruptly precipitous hill, is an additional confirmation of its strength.

On the extreme top, and nearly entirely surrounded by the old walls, stands at the present day a small farm-house, inhabited by Mr Symonds, whom I found extremely attentive and willing, and not a little anxious beside, to afford any information which might throw any light on the subject in his power. From him I learned that the property belonged to the Charter House, whose tenant he had been for a short time only ; it would be necessary therefore to obtain the consent of the governors of that foundation, before commencing any operations to make an examination of a subterranean passage said to exist, but the extent, contents, and direction of which had never been ascertained ; this he promised to ask on an expected visit of these gentlemen next week. He (Mr Symonds) said, “ the reputed entrance to the

passage is on the inside the farm-house, which it leaves by one of the cellars, but the aperture is now closed up by being bricked; and if any attempt be made to effect an entrance now, it must be by clearing the roof through the garden which it crosses in its progress apparently toward the exterior;" this I verified by boring to the external surface of what appeared to be a vaulted and arched passage, palpably hollow on being struck by the boring instrument, or any hard substance: "this," added Mr S., "is all I know of the matter, for I have only resided here for a short time; there is, however, in the village an old person named French, who is interested in such things, and will give you readily any information he can about this place." On this reference I bade adieu to Mr S., who, prior to my departure, placed in my hands a small brass coin of Germany, found, as he said, by one of his men, a few days ago, near the farm yard: I had never seen anything like it, and am not a sufficiently learned numismatist to venture any opinion upon it. I then visited Mr French, who, in reply to my questions, informed me, that, some forty or fifty years ago, when a youth, he, with two or three others, ventured into the passage, entering from the cellar, but being frightened, they did not proceed far. He should say, however, judging from appearances, that it was of considerable extent. He, besides this, told me that no examination had ever been made of the passage,

or of any part of the works, in search of remains. He had never heard of any Roman or Saxon coins; in fact the only one he had ever seen was one of Philip and Mary, of silver, and taken out near the underground way; no weapons, either had ever been disinterred, with the exception of some rumour of some spurs and other bits of iron. He concluded by volunteering his services as a guide, should I obtain permission to examine the defences practically, and of these I shall most gladly avail myself: until that is settled I bid adieu to the subject, merely appending an observation, that the village church stands a few yards below the farm, on the side of the hill; and that I cannot describe the appearance of the numerous ditches better than by saying, that they embrace the whole circumference of the hill, in serpentine folds, one above the other: and with regard to the passage, if passage there be, my readers will perhaps accept a conjecture at hazard, that it was either the entrance to dungeons or vaults, or perhaps it may have an external exit in the side of one of the great fosses, and have been used as a sally port, for escape or attack, in case of the castle being beleaguered completely by beseigers.

REPORT OF THE ROMAN CAMP

AT WALBURY, ESSEX, APRIL, 1847.

As we are now upon the subject of the vestiges of the occupation of Britain by this people, the following account will not be out of place here ;—for it, I am indebted to Mr Frye of Saffron Walden, whose assistance and zeal in the prosecution of Archæological pursuits I have already profited by, and gratefully acknowledged in my '*Antiqua.*' Again I must beg to offer him my best thanks for his untiring exertions in obtaining and imparting any information on antiquities he may chance upon. Having heard, in the present instance, that I wished an examination of, and an authenticated report upon, the *vestigia* of this place, Mr F. was kind enough to make a journey to it, and forward me the subjoined particulars, which are so comprehensive and lucid, that I cannot do better than insert them *verbatim* as I received them at the time. I must however preface them by observing, that I wished for an account of these *castra* more especially, as it is stated, I believe, in Morant, or one of the topographical works on Essex, that more coins of Cunobeline have been found in this locality than in any other ; and as the money of this prince is occupying a great deal of attention at present, and is an object of peculiar interest to me, I was anxious to ascertain the truth of

the assertion. The following report, I think, settles the point, and establishes it to be entirely erroneous : it is as annexed.—

“Walbury is situated two miles and a half from Bishop Stortford, Herts., on the left of the high road to London, and to the right of the river Stort, and about midway between Stortford and Sawbridgeworth. Walbury is on an eminence, and has been a Roman camp or fortification, with a double ditch. The easiest approach to it is at the eastern side, on which as at the northern side, great labour has been bestowed in strengthening it by the depth of the fosse, behind or within which is a lofty bold embankment: the trees planted thereon are old. Enquiry was made of old men at plough, near this spot, and of persons met and called upon on the way, who said they never heard of any coins or curious old things being found at or about this place. Mr John Pratt, an old inhabitant of Bishop Stortford, watchmaker, who has been in the habit of purchasing coins, never heard of any being found at Walbury. Within the boundary of the camp, a house has recently been taken down, and from enquiry, this edifice, though approaching to something like a mansion, was not of very ancient or interesting character. The site is the property of J. A. Houblon, Esq., of Hallingbury House, who perhaps could give some better account of this yet interesting place. The Rev. J. Hutchinson, the venerable vicar of Sawbridgeworth, being called up-

on, says, his relative, Sir H. Dryden (an antiquary), has visited this spot, and made careful memoranda respecting it; of whom more information, perhaps, might be obtained. The circumference of the camp is not less than three-quarters of a mile: the embankments, east, north, and south, are all still well understood, and the ditch visible on the west; and at this point the whole well fortified by nature, and washed at the foot by the river Stort. It must have been considered a very strong place, yet no Roman antiquities have been met with, and there is no appearance of barrows.”

APPENDIX

TO THE DISCOVERIES OF TRACES OF PRIMEVAL OCCUPATION,
IN MR THOMAS BIRD'S GARDEN, AT MYRTLE HILL,
IN THE PARISH OF WENDENS AMBO.

Continuation of the Vestigia of the early Britons. (Vide p. 11.)

I have to-day (June 18th) heard that the operations improving this gentleman's property in the above-named spot have not yet terminated; on the contrary, they are in progress still; and fresh interesting remains of this little known as yet and less understood nation are still exhumed, which, by the continued kindness of the owner, are forwarded to me as they occur. The first that I have to notice is a most singularly-shaped triangular spear-head

of iron, three inches in length, and much corroded. Mr C. R. Smith, F.S.A., on being shewn this weapon, informs me that the shape is new to him entirely. This is saying a good deal, for that gentleman is well acquainted with such instruments, more particularly those connected with early occupation; and I should consequently be tempted to hazard the conjecture that it is unique in its species. To-day produced from the same site more pieces of pottery, of the same rude texture, and to judge from the appearance of the pieces (fourteen in number) of a flagon-shaped vessel of similar ware, they all bore marks of cremation, though no burnt bones or ashes were discovered, and were composed of unbaked clay, and none of them joining together. Had they been accompanied by burnt bones or ashes, one would be inclined to say that the field was a cemetery, and not the locale of a solitary deposit or interment, as I conjectured it to be at first, in describing the discovery of the remains above. Two bits of the earthenware exhibit a pattern that proves them to have been made in a mould.

EXAMINATION OF THE RUINS AT CASTLE CAMPS.

The Master of the Charter House, at the court held at the above-named place, on Tuesday, June 22nd, most kindly gave me permission, on my ap-

plication, to do anything I might find necessary in the course of investigating the remains, and the reputed subterranean passage. Of this kind permission I lost no time in availing myself; and was fortunate enough to be able to obtain the valuable and efficient services of J. C. Buckler, Esq., as a coadjutor.

The results of this investigation shew how little credence is to be placed on verbal accounts and traditions, although accompanying circumstances may seem at first to coincide with and confirm any account. On Wednesday, June 23rd, therefore, I went over again to Castle Camps with Mr Buckler; but as he has promised me, obligingly, a report more detailed in writing, to append to this paper, on the subject, I shall merely give a summary of his remarks as they fell from his lips at the time. I must preface them with a remark, that I had, since my former visit to this locality, obtained a pair of bronze tweezers, most decidedly Roman, in fine preservation; found in the parish, but the exact spot I cannot ascertain.

On completing his inspection, Mr B. said, "I can discover no traces whatever of Roman occupation, or indeed of any prior to what one expects from the account generally received of the place, namely, that it was the property and seat of the De Veres, earls of Oxford, in the 13th century. The masonry and composition of the material, too, coincide with structures

of a similar date. One is, however, struck at first sight, by the appearance presented even at the present day by the ruins, the dimensions and extent of the fosses and defences, with an idea of the original grandeur and strength of the fortress." On the subterranean passage said to exist, Mr B. remarked: "Depend upon it there is no such thing; the hollow sound you describe, emitted by the ruins on being struck, arises most likely from the connection of the foundations with a long mass of the same nature now buried."

The accuracy of this opinion is fully proved by the sequel; for I left my man, Cox, to complete the examination practically, which he did under the guidance of Mr French, the old gentleman alluded to above, who still maintained his original account. Cox worked for four hours successively, both in the cellar, where the passage was said to have its origin, and on the foundations in the garden of Mr Symonds; in the course of which period he cut through solid masonry twenty-seven inches thick; but all to no purpose; nothing was elicited; and the existence of this covered passage must remain in *statu quo*, a matter of history or tradition. We may account fully for the existence of these immense ditches without referring, as is generally done, to the ancient Britons, or Anglo-Saxons, for their origin, by including them among the defences of the castle.

I have before stated that they are said to be connected with Hildersham in Cambridgeshire, which

gives me cause to notice a singular circumstance connected with the last-named place, which is this : I have in my collection an iron dagger, found at Hildersham, of the 15th century ; and I hear at present of two others found in the same locality, besides a fourth in the Walden Museum from one of these ditches, and which, in catalogueing that collection, they have described, I presume for the sake of investing it with interest, as Danish : another instance of the unaccountable fondness which they have in this neighbourhood, for attributing everything not well understood to that people. I have this day reason for stating that Mr Frye has most kindly promised to endeavour to obtain for me at least an inspection of two out of three of these weapons ; which, should he succeed in doing, will enable me to make a close inspection of their comparative size and shapes, and determine by the one I already possess, and which I have the highest authority (that of Mr Hawkins of the British Museum) for assigning to the 15th century : but more of this hereafter.

This morning's post has brought also a letter from J. C. Buckler, Esq., accompanied by a small sketch and plan of the remains of Camps Castle. His remarks upon the ruins are very short, but they will confirm most fully what I have given as collected from his observations at the time, and I insert them here. The plan I have determined to have engraved, and publish it with this book as a pendant to this paper.

Mr Buckler says, "As I have heard nothing respecting discoveries at Camps, I conclude that nothing of an interesting description has been brought to light, by the operation of excavating the foundations, since we visited the spot together. I had no expectation that anything curious would reward our toil,—certainly nothing of so remote a date as I had been led to hope might be disinterred, before I had the opportunity of examining the ground; and am quite certain that the foundations, of which we inspected several fragments, are the ruins of a castle, or castellated mansion, erected subsequently to the Norman Conquest. The fragments are of very solid construction, reduced to the level of the ground, and may be traced in different directions over a considerable portion of the area within the moat; which area comprises about two acres, and the figure is nearly square, encompassed by a broad and deep fosse, the greater part of which is dry, and sheltered with trees, which prove highly ornamental to the elevated ground. There is a second or outer ditch, the north side of which is parallel with the one just noticed; the distance between is probably not less than five hundred yards. It encloses the village Church, in which there are no remains of early date, or any interesting architecture. The east and west sides of the moat gradually slope, and at length meet the sides of the inner one, near its southern angles, in order, it would appear, that the double line of for-

tification thus formed, should be supplied by the spring, which still flows round the western side of the inner moat.”

Of the great value of a plan, or any remarks upon architecture, from the pen of one so thoroughly acquainted with the subject as Mr Buckler, the generality of my readers must be perfectly aware, any further observations on my part would therefore be superfluous. Some antiquarians may, perchance, be dissatisfied with my endeavours to penetrate the mist that floats around these gigantic fosses, since by throwing light upon their construction and eliciting their true date the stories relative to their early origin, must necessarily be destroyed. But I consider that one of the chief merits of these researches consists in dispersing those doubts which vague rumour and the tradition of bye-gone ages have spread over all the vestiges yet remaining of the works of our forefathers, although at the same time, we may by so doing upset some of the fanciful theories and poetical romances in which new votaries in this study are especially prone to indulge.

The description of the weapons found at Hildersham, I have deferred till the conclusion of this paper, believing that the subject will be introduced in a much more satisfactory and interesting manner by a short notice of the illustrious family of de Vere, formerly earls of Oxford, and long connected with this place. Of their great power, and the almost

regal state which they exercised, the recapitulation of their possessions alone, as well as the dignities they from time to time enjoyed, gives some idea, a faint one though it must be admitted ; and even at the present day, an inspection of these vast ruins cannot fail to impress the observant witness with a notion of the rank and wealth of a personage to whom such a fortress served but as a secondary residence, resorted to merely for occasional change of scene by its lordly owners. Their principal residence and stronghold, Hedingham, is thus described by Morant, in his History of the County of Essex.

“ Hedingham Castle was the chief seat and head of the barony of the de Veres earls of Oxford, which circumstance gave rise to the distinguishing appellation affixed to this place, to this day called ‘ Castle Hedingham.’ The property was granted by William the Conqueror to Alberic de Vere, who attended him when Duke of Normandy in his conquest of England, for which service that Prince rewarded him with fourteen lordships in this county, whereof this was one. He founded Colne Priory, took the habit there, died a monk, and was buried in the church. His daughter Roesia married, secondly, Geoffrey de Mandeville, first Earl of Essex, and possessor of Walden Castle, which town is defended by large fosses, similar to those of Camps, and which are as erroneously designated as of Saxon origin. He left besides five sons to carry on the dynasty of de Vere,

justly reputed the most illustrious in the world, for from the same surname it produced in succession twenty earls, between the years 1137 and 1703, a distinction peculiar I believe to this noble family. Independently of the office of Lord High Chamberlain and Earldom of Oxford, hereditary dignities, some of its members discharged those of Chief Justice, Chancellor, Lord High Admiral, and Constable of England. William, son of the first earl, was Bishop of Hereford, 1186. From this race have also sprung several celebrated warriors and generals, amongst whom may be mentioned four knights, members of the Most Honorable Order of the Garter; with many others, which it would far exceed my limits to enumerate. Nor were they less renowned for works of piety, having founded, besides the Priory at Colne, those of Hedingham Castle, Hatfield Broadoak, Horton, and Ickleton, in the counties of Essex, Kent, and Cambridgeshire; as well as various benefactions to religious houses in other parts of the kingdom. In the course of many vicissitudes and changes of fortune, these once immense possessions have become dissevered, and now, as is usually the case with the princely inheritances of other times, form a number of little properties, being only traditionally known as having once been included in the lordships of the far-famed and unrivalled de Veres earls of Oxford.”

“ Sic transit gloria mundi : ”

for their owners, we can say only with Coleridge,

“ The good knights are dust,
Their swords are rust ;
Their souls are with the saints, we trust.”

“ It never rains but it pours,” saith the old proverb, and it seems likely enough to be realized in my case ; for so many subjects of archæological interest have of late presented themselves, in such rapid succession, that my time and attention have been fully engrossed with their details and investigation ; I must therefore crave of my readers some small indulgence, with an allowance for trivial errors that may occur in giving their description, with the concomitant circumstances. And here I would fain remark upon the exceeding interest of this study, inasmuch as far from feeling exhausted or fatigued by so constant an exercise of my powers both mental and physical, I record with deep thankfulness at this time, a great improvement in my strength and general health, which naturally stimulated and gave me encouragement to embark in further undertakings. Nor was this desire destined to remain long unsatisfied, as will be seen by the following narrative, which this short digression is intended to introduce.

THE DISCOVERY OF A ROMAN CEMETERY.

Unexpected information was conveyed to me of this occurrence (June 29th), accompanied with a request from Mr Kent, on whose farm it took place, that I would come over and inspect the site; an invitation of which I most gladly availed myself, and lost no time in proceeding to the point in question, at a small hamlet called Cherry Green (spelt Chawreth Green), in the parish of Broxted. Previous to this period, no pottery of any sort, or appearance of Roman remains, had ever been seen or heard of in that neighbourhood; but the preceding week, a labourer in the course of ploughing came upon the vessels described below. It would seem the field had been in cultivation for some years, but the last tenant having levelled away the headland (or edge of the land, as it is called) to spread as top soil on the centre of the glebe, the depth of the surface at the sides was necessarily considerably diminished, which would at once account for the articles there deposited having hitherto escaped contact with the plough, and their being at this time exposed to view. Now, however, they were doomed to see the light; and, as

far as I could judge from the fragments and their contents, appeared in the shape of—

1, A cinerary Vase of red ware, full of concreted burnt bones, probably human: from the lapse of time the mass of concrete had become moulded to the shape of the urn.

2, Another Urn of fine red glazed Samian ware, disinterred whole, but smashed by a thoughtless kick from the foot of the ignorant ploughman.

3, A small Patera, also of Samian ware; likewise discovered whole, but annihilated by a boy who was following the plough.

4, A cinerary Vase; of which the labourer remarked that he “ploughed right through it,” and the inevitable consequences ensued.

Many portions of these relics were presented to me, and there being reason to infer that more still remained to be disinterred there, with the kind permission of Mr Kent, I resolved to excavate on my own account. To this determination I was led by two great inducements,—the shallowness of the deposit, and the fine quality of the fragments, consisting chiefly of plain glazed Samian ware; besides that the ground had never been disturbed to any depth by land-ditching, or any other operation.

In despite of these promising appearances my two excavators having examined the spot (July 1st.), (the crown of a rather steep hill, exposed to the north-east,) gave a very unfavourable account of their labours, holding out little or no hope of their efforts being crowned with success. They encountered no-

thing but a few fragments of pottery, much coarser than that which I had previously seen ; and although these vessels had evidently contained ashes, the fractures were of very ancient date ; and the depth of the deposit so very shallow (six inches), that if any others remained they must speedily have been discovered. Such convincing circumstances determined me to discontinue these excavations, and return to the more fruitful field of Chesterford. It should also in justice be stated, that the ploughman's account of the whole occurrence was so confused and mystified, that had not his testimony as to the disinterment of the perfect red patera been confirmed by Mr Kent, I should have doubted the truth of any part of the story.

ON WEAPONS
AND OTHER REMAINS,

DISINTERRED FROM THE SIDES AND THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE LARGE FOSSES RUNNING FROM CASTLE CAMPS TOWARDS HILDERSHAM, AND THE EVIDENCE THEY AFFORD AS TO THEIR DATE AND ORIGIN.

I have received with gratitude, from Mr Frye, one of the weapons found at Hildersham, Cambridge-shire, before referred to, which requires no comparison with the dagger of the 15th century, discovered at the same spot, for it proves to be an iron arrow-head, in good preservation, and most obviously Norman, perhaps about the middle of the 12th or early in the 13th century. It has, indeed, even now the appearance of a most formidable weapon, and one can easily understand on examination, how even proof armour might be pervious to its attack, when sent from a strong bow, deriving also additional impetus from its weight and peculiar shape, the length (two inches and three-quarters) being much out of proportion to its breadth, which is, at the greatest expanse of metal, only five-eighths of an inch; the barbs, too, are one inch and seven-eighths in length, so that it must have been no joke to have “noon rung on one’s mail,” and that, too, by a first-rate archer, with a cloth yard shaft, pointed with a head both conical and acute. This arrow-head was in

the possession of Mr T. Webb of Hildersham, who kindly forwarded it to me through Mr Frye, on his visit of inspection to that place, an account of which I give in his own words ; but I must previously explain in what manner the date of these ditches is affected by the weapon here described.

Amongst the various nations (some, no doubt, fabulously) to whom these excavations have been assigned, one contemporaneous with the Danes claims principal attention, as being first favourite with those who pretend to trace thus high their pedigree ; I allude to the Saxons. Now it is well known that they were no archers,—a fact confirmed by the following quotation, for which I am indebted to Sir Samuel Meyrick's beautifully illustrated work.

“The bow, as a weapon of war, was certainly introduced by the Normans, the Saxons using it, as the people of Tahiti at the present day, merely for killing birds ; on this account in the speech which Henry of Huntingdon puts in the Conqueror's mouth before the battle of Hastings, he makes him stigmatize the Saxons as a nation not even having arrows. As Harold fell by an arrow, and the firm phalanx of the Saxons was chiefly broken by this weapon, the bow became, ever after, a favourite weapon in England : the laws of William, however, do not rank it among the arms of a nobleman.”

ACCOUNT OF AN EXPEDITION TO
HILDERSHAM,

TO INSPECT REMAINS REPORTED THERE,

By Mr J. Frye, Saffron Walden,

June 29th, 1847.

The village of Hildersham, situated in the eastern part of Cambridgeshire, is divided in the centre by a rather large though shallow stream, over which is a foot-bridge. This water, a few miles on its course, joins the river Cam. To those fond of rural situations, this hamlet presents a pleasant summer retreat; and the neat and commodious residences of Mr Cotton, Mr T. Webb at the farm, and the pretty rectory, at present occupied by the proprietor, the Rev. R. Goodwin, cannot fail to be objects of admiration to all those whose steps may by chance be directed that way. The Church stands on a gentle eminence, its tower being probably early English and the other parts of the fabric also ancient. Towards the south, adjoining the church-yard, is a large pasture, the surface of which is uneven, and though several attempts have been made to reduce them, is still, within one hundred and fifty feet of the church tower, dotted and broken by small barrow-like tumuli. On the exterior of the church-yard wall appears a decided mound, perhaps about six or eight feet

in height, flat or rather sunken on the summit ; in diameter twenty feet, or seven ordinary paces. It is reported that a spear-head, helmet, and some description of pottery have been lately discovered in another part of this meadow, which would incline one to ascribe this tumulus to the early Britons. Mr Thomas Webb has carted away several loads of stones from this place, which he informed me were a portion of the foundations of Hildersham Castle. Certain it is that a spot abounding with so much that is interesting to antiquaries should be thoroughly explored. This parish is altogether omitted by Britton in his " Beauties of England and Wales ; " but Carter, in his " History of Cambridgeshire, " briefly notices it.

On attentively reconsidering all the facts as yet ascertained, regarding the degree of antiquity of these remains,—namely, the knight's dagger of the 15th century, the Norman arrow-head, of the 12th, the reported helmet, and the existence of the immense fosses communicating with Camps Castle,—I am inclined to come to a more decided conclusion, and state my conviction, that a careful investigation would prove the large barrow to be Celtic : an origin no way, however, involving the minor elevations : these may be ascribed to a much later period, the pasture having probably been the scene of a battle-field, during the wars of Henry III. with his barons ; for we know that many conflicts and skirmishes took

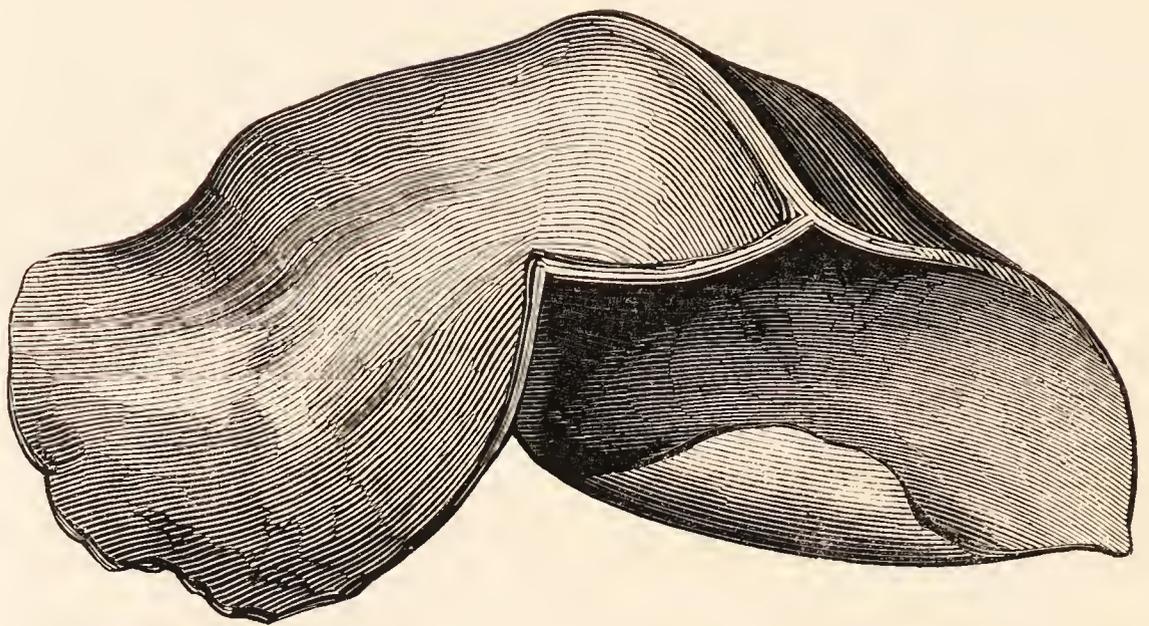
place at that time in this part of the country. In the absence of evidence of a more conclusive character I shall continue to hold this opinion.

Having failed to obtain the permission I had hoped for, to examine the large barrow, on account of the pending sale of the Hildersham property, and the antiquities being already disposed of, I have availed myself of the kind offer of their owner, Mr. Cotton, and employed Mr. Frye to delineate them, a task he has executed most accurately; and I have besides to thank him for that which I expect will prove a most valuable addition to this group of remains, and indeed of itself tends to establish the Norman origin and occupation of this part of the country;—I allude to a drawing of a remarkable effigy, representing a crusader, or templar, and his lady, which, from being discovered in the Churchyard, near the site of the small tumuli, is an additional confirmation of a conjecture I before hazarded, that this spot was once a battle-field in early times, soon after the Norman conquest. To judge from the position in which the warrior lies (his legs crossed, and the feet resting apparently upon a lamb, *couchant*), he had visited the Holy Land, probably in one of the early crusades.

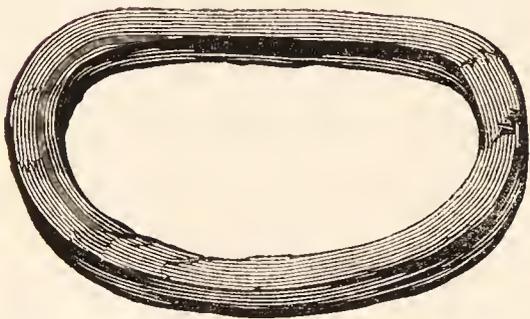
Lyson, in describing the manor of Hildersham, speaks of it in the following words:—“Hildersham in the Hundred of Chilford and Deanery of Camps, lies eight miles south-east of Cambridge. The manor



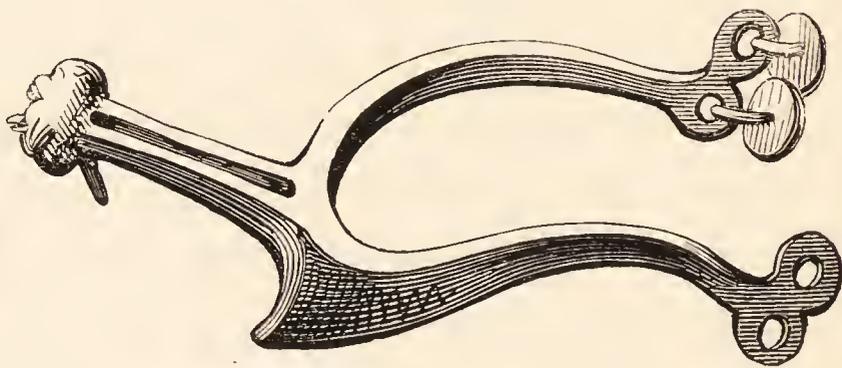
TOMB OF A CRUSADER AND HIS WIFE IN THE BELFRY AT
HILDERSHAM CHURCH.



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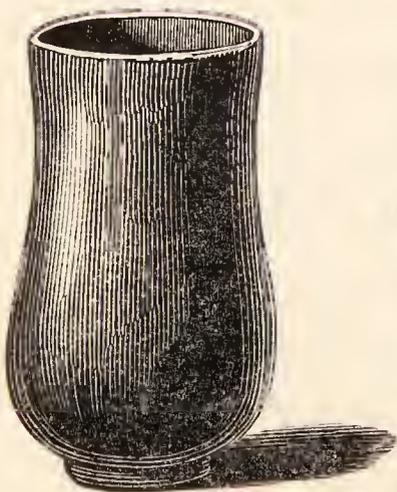
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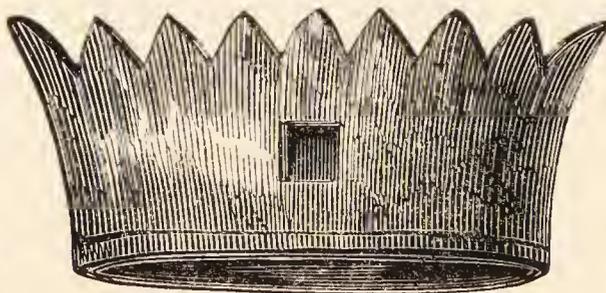
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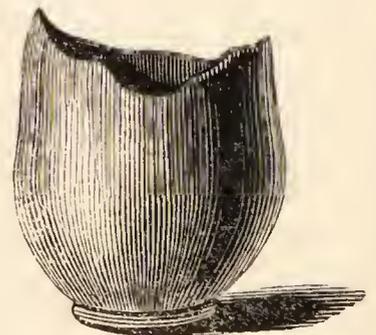
No. 5.



No. 7.



No. 6.



No. 8.

WEAPONS AND OTHER ANTIQUITIES FOUND AT HILDERSHAM.

was one of those given by William the Conqueror to Aubrey de Vere, and was afterwards in the families of Busteler and Paris." The figures are also mentioned as follows:—"In the parish church, amongst several monuments of these two families, are the effigies, carved in oak, of a crusader (probably Sir Robert Busteler) and his lady. They are now deposited in the belfry, the south chapel in which they originally were, having been pulled down. Sir Robert died, seized of the manor, in 1370."

I have been the more particular in my description of these figures, as that of the knight (No. 1) introduces and authenticates the relic (No. 2) engraved from Mr. Frye's drawing, which proves to be part of a scull-cap, and was discovered in the same locality. It is much battered and broken; but the head of the monumental figure is encased in a defence sufficiently similar to the fragmentary one, to determine its date and Norman origin. No. 3 is an iron ring, probably belonging to the armour. Nos 4 and 5 are clearly a knight's spur and lance-head; but on No. 6, which is also drawn, and was forwarded to me with the suggestion of its being an iron lamp, I will not venture an opinion. Nos 7 and 8 are two singularly-shaped bottles of glazed earthenware, probably mediæval. The catalogue of the Saffron Walden Museum enumerates a glazed green earthenware bottle, bearing the royal arms prior to the reign of Henry IV.

Such are the remains I have been able to establish as found in this locality, combined with all the evidence I have collected respecting them ; my readers will determine whether they are satisfactory or no. For my own part, I think the effigies alone, without any of the collateral and confirmatory proofs, viz.,—the Norman arrow point, scull-cap, lance-head, knight's spur, &c., are more than sufficient to upset the advocates for the Saxon origin of these defences ; while the ridiculous theory in favour of the Danes vanishes like smoke before them. Whatever, or whoever, the figure is intended to represent, I think we may safely assert, he was neither an early Briton nor Saxon. I am bound also to mention, that I can hear of no Sceatta or other Saxon coins discovered, at any time, in or about these ditches, which derive an additional claim to Norman parentage from their connection with Castle Camps, and the fact of the property having been first granted to Aubrey de Vere, along with that manor. A consideration of all these circumstances will lead us to inquire,—“What now becomes of Ansgar, Master of the Horse to Edward the Confessor?”

PROGRESS OF OPERATIONS AT
CHESTERFORD,

IN THE SUMMER OF 1847.

I will commence this account of the discoveries which have taken place, and still continue to do so, in the above-named parish, by premising that they were not only effected by my own workmen, but by other labourers employed by the parish in digging foundations for a National School, on some land abutting on the south-eastern extremity of the church-yard. I have hitherto been fortunate enough to obtain possession of everything discovered on this last-named site, an accurate detail of which is subjoined, and brought up to the present time.

A first brass coin of Trajan; a third brass of Claudius Gothicus, and of Gratian; numerous fragments of iron—one circular—principally composed of curiously-shaped rings (of which, having never met with any similar before, I am at a loss to guess the use); one very rare bronze chain, probably part of the trappings of a horse, which is now at the British Museum, awaiting the decision of the authorities there. It is much patinated, and was taken from a hole seven feet deep, with some third brass coins of Theodosius the Great, much defaced.

June 30th brought to light, in the same locality, a remnant of a nation whose traces I have never happened to come across in the course of my various excavations; it is a very large iron nail, very perfect, of Saxon manufacture, the head being fully an inch in diameter; and I am assured by C. R. Smith, Esq., that these (I think I may fairly call them Grant nails) are of very frequent occurrence in the burying-places of the Saxons. I have, however, in my possession several exactly similar to the one just described, from the Saxon cemetery at Colchester, though in none of them does the head appear as fully developed, nor so well preserved. The locale of the operations under my own directions, is in a field belonging to Mr Barnard, situated on the north-eastern exterior of the city walls, a few hundred yards further than that in which I discovered fifty-four fictile vessels, in the course of last autumn. It contains rather more than half-an-acre, including a small gravel-pit; and some years since, in making a cartway to this pit, a small leaden coffin was exhumed, which is preserved in the Saffron Walden Museum.

The commencement of my excavations was satisfactory, the first day producing, what I consider as a confirmation of the early occupation of this north-eastern side of the station, namely, a very fine second brass coin of Vespasian, beautifully preserved, and evidently, from its weight and general condition,

nearly new when lost or deposited: *obverse*, Laureated head of Emperor, to the right; legend, "CÆSAR VESPASIANUS AUG. IMP.": *reverse*, a Priestess with a wand, seated before a sacrificial fire; legend, "SECURITAS. AUG.": in the exergue, "s. c."

July 3rd, fragments of pottery ornamented with a new variety of pattern were disinterred; they were black and patterned, of a thick substance, which becomes white when broken. I must beg leave to mention here, that this day brought me intelligence of the existence of another aureus, found at this station, an account of which I insert, as I believe dependence may be placed on the narrator, who is in the service of a gentleman residing in the neighbouring parish of Hinxton. "About forty years ago (said my informant, pointing to a field visible from the scene of my own researches), a labourer whilst rooting up weeds there, found a coin and sold it to me for sixpence: I had then no idea of its value, till a friend accidentally seeing it, remarked, he was sure it was of gold, which, on a closer examination, proved to be the case." In consequence of this discovery, he sold it for twenty-five shillings, to a gentleman living near Bury, having in the first instance, I am bound for the honour of human nature to add, rewarded the labourer with a present of five shillings; he was unable to furnish any description of the coin, except "that it was one of

King Cæsar's, for he could read his name quite plain." Should any thing further come to light on this subject I will subjoin it, and as it is possible this account may chance to meet the eye of some person capable of elucidating the matter more fully, I shall feel most grateful for any communications relative to the parentage and subsequent history of the coin in question.

Up to Friday, July 9th, nothing further presented itself, excepting a fragment of an iron stylus, part of a curiously marked bone pin, three small brass of Tetricus, one of Claudius Gothicus, and one 3rd brass unnamed. I have reason to fear that, owing to the intervention of the above-mentioned gravel-pit, we may possibly have skipped over that portion of ground I have alluded to, as being so prolific in producing coins of the earlier Emperors; be this as it may, it is encouraging to reflect that the metal disinterred, although small, is well patinated, and in very tolerable preservation. I must, however, not omit to mention two badger's skulls found here, which claim notice, as being similar to those brought to light in the large British barrow, at Melbourne, last spring.

July 9th: On this day my workmen came to that which had the appearance, at first sight, of an object most familiar to me, and which I have been accustomed to class under the denomination of Roman rubbish holes. My head-man, however, speedily dispelled my illusion on the subject, by remarking

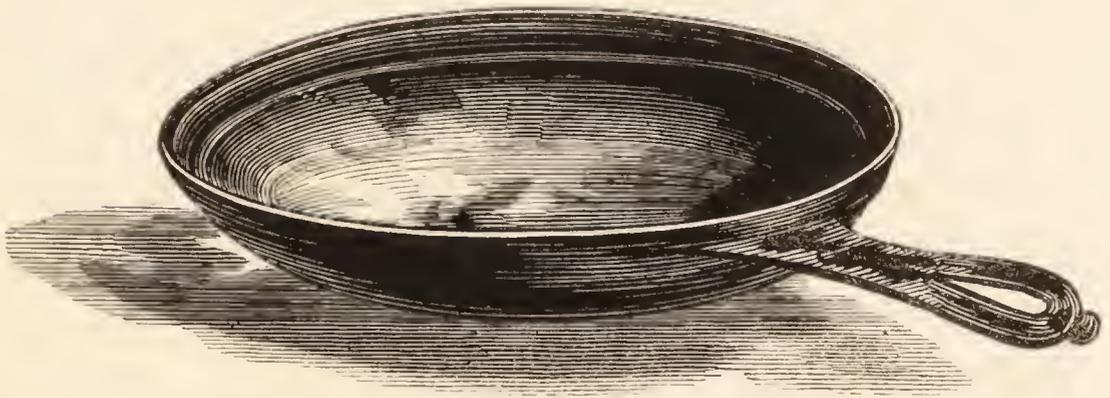
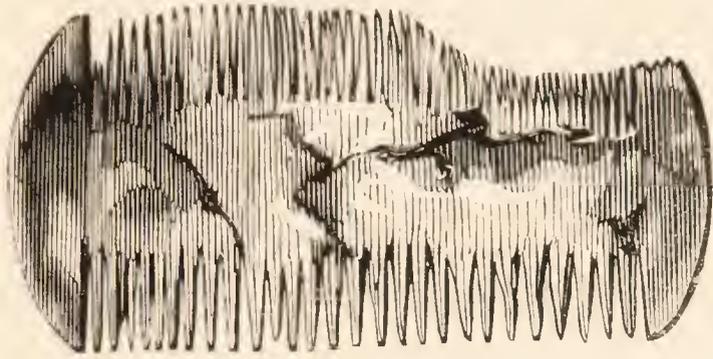
that this hole must be much deeper than ordinary, from the sound emitted by striking the ground on the surface soil, as well as by commenting on its unusually circular form, and the care evidently bestowed upon cutting it through the solid gravel. As far as eight feet it was sunk, presenting nothing, save two third brass Claudius Gothicus's, a few bullocks' bones, with oyster shells, and one of the small muscle or limpet. At that depth, however, appeared a very fine and perfect bronze comb, for such I conclude it should be called from its double row of teeth, one larger than the other, though in shape it resembles more one used for horses at the present day. To illustrate it more fully, I must remark, that the sight of it awakened unpleasant but very vivid reminiscences of a certain instrument, much used by nursery maids during my childish days, and yclept, a small tooth comb, only far superior in size, as will be seen from the accompanying drawing. From eight to eighteen feet the monotony of the shaft was only broken by the pieces of pottery becoming more numerous and more varied in shape, and in the quality of the material. A plated denarius of Constantine was found in good preservation in company with a polished and headed hair pin, and bullocks' bones abounded in great numbers; no human bones, however, were discovered, excepting a small portion of the skull of some unfortunate wight, who may possibly have walked in undesignedly,

whilst under the influence of the rosy or the drowsy god,—

“Vino fatigatus que somno,”—HORACE.

and thus effectually drowned himself and his cares in the purer element. The fracture of this gentleman's skull was, I may add on good authority, of anything but of recent date.

At twenty feet, the well, for I may as well call it at once by its proper name, produced, what my workmen informed me was, a metal ladle, and such, indeed, it proved to be; its shape resembling a fine gilt sacrificial patera, with a handle standing out horizontally; the bowl part is about twice the size of a common soup ladle, having a sort of a seal-like excrescence at the bottom, precisely similar to what I have frequently remarked on the shoulder of mediæval bottles; in this case it is clearly of use to enable the patera to stand without spilling, on a flat or smooth surface; the only emblem or device it bears is that of a serpent; I have never met with anything of the kind before. In the centre it is corroded through, but the gilding despite its age is still clearly visible all over, forming a remarkable object, and contrasting well with the green patina, which is very striking on this as well as on the comb: they are both novelties to me, and I think I have every reason to be pleased with and proud of them. Nothing further remains to be noticed, excepting



BRONZE COMB AND PATERA FOUND AT CHESTERFORD.

the fragments of earthenware, which, as the shaft increased in depth became more and more numerous; at twenty-eight feet the damp appearance of the gravel gave infallible tokens of the close proximity of water, which finally burst through at thirty-one feet, the men having struck exactly into the spring, which bubbled up so rapidly as to render it necessary to effect as speedy a retreat as possible.

To return to the pottery, which became a more prominent feature, as we approached the bottom of the well, it was mostly broken, and in general very coarse in texture: my servant has, however, succeeded in restoring three specimens, two of which being entirely novel in form, are worthy of particular description:—Of these, one in black ware, resembles a nearly complete basin-shaped vase, apparently of a similar manufacture to that very superior kind found at Upchurch, and now in the collection of C. R. Smith, Esq. In short, were the colour different, I should call it decidedly fine red glazed Samian ware, excepting that it is rather thicker in quality. The second, also of black ware, is embossed and patterned with the same border as the red specimens of the Samian ware; it is about three-parts perfect, and has the appearance of being composed of sandstone or gutty ware. The remaining vase is curious, merely from its shape, which is an exact miniature edition of the tuns now in use; in the head of this cask-like vessel are two holes, for what purpose

designed is not apparent ; indeed the use and appliance to which this little barrel was put remains quite open to conjecture. Such were all the productions of this remarkable spot, but I cannot dismiss the subject without pausing on a point which presents itself very forcibly to the attention.

The Romans, as we have abundant proofs, were in general most particular and sagacious in their choice of sites, and adaptation of local facilities. What then could have been their object in incurring the labour of sinking a well in one of the most elevated parts of the station, especially as at the distance of only a few fields, and in apparently an equal convenient position, water could have been obtained at the depth of twenty instead of thirty feet. Doubtless they had a good reason, but as we cannot ask them what it was, we will give them all due credit for its being the best that could be assigned.

At this period, besides the operations in Mr Barnard's field and the foundations of the National School, another point of research was added to my list ; viz.,—the line of railway from Chesterford to Newmarket, which running across the northern and north-western exterior of the ancient city walls, at

the distance of seventy or eighty yards, was naturally from this cause productive of signs of the former inhabitants. The means of procuring these curiosities were most readily afforded me, of which I can bear grateful testimony. The productions of these several localities occurred somewhat promiscuously ; but in order to avoid confusion, I have arranged them separately under three distinct forms.

July 17th : On this day a very fine silver groat of Edward IV.'s was found in Mr Barnard's field by my workmen, closely followed also from this site by a human skeleton, lying in the same line of interment, which produced, two years ago, a leaden coffin, and whence I have myself brought to light three skeletons, a cinerary vase, and silver denarius of Julia. The appearance of this skeleton was, I confess, no matter of surprise to me, the portion of a collar bone of a human being having been exhumed but a short time previously, the remainder of the body, therefore, naturally soon followed, quite complete, with the exception of the head. In close vicinity lay a very perfect cinerary vessel of coarse red pottery, with a small neck and narrow aperture, in shape, globular, perhaps slightly inclining to oval ; and a fine second brass coin of Titus, in excellent preservation, inscribed as follows :—*Obverse*, Head of the Emperor to the right. "IMP. I. CÆSAR CENSOR AUG. COS. VI." *Reverse*, "Victory standing on the prow of a ship, "LEGEND.

VICTORIA NAVALIS ;” also in a line with it, another second brass, of Antoninus Pius. Head of Emperor to the right, but otherwise so much defaced as to render any description impossible.

While upon this subject, mention should be made of two early flint arrow heads, a few yards distant from, but not in any way connected with, the interment. An iron fork intended for dressing the land, portions of two iron knives, and other fragments of iron; one small bright blue bead, top of an iron key, rim of a glass bottle, one third brass coin of Tetricus, three small brass of Tetricus Senior, Junior, and Arcadius, were also elicited from Mr Barnard’s field, with a fine third brass coin of Septimus Severus. Head of Emperor to the right, “LEG. IMP. SEPT. SEVERUS PERTINAX.” *Reverse.* Victory marching with a trophy and garland, “LEG. VICT. ARABIA DIABENICA.” Nor were the foundations of the National School less backward in contributing their quota of antiquities, amongst which may be enumerated, a penny of Edward II., of the currency denominated black money, struck especially for Ireland, an Irish halfpenny of George I., parts of the horns of deer, one horse-shoe, and portions of another, with several Saxon nails and iron rings; and towards the close of the operations (July 21), a most singular glass bottle was exhumed, so entirely different from anything of the kind I have previously met with, as to render it difficult to

pronounce an opinion on the subject. In shape it resembles those now in use for Seltzer water, the bottom globular, of very heavy material, short in the neck, and much larger in diameter in the centre than at the mouth; the top is much chipped, and the exterior surface covered with a kind of bronze patina. The bottle contained a reddish crust, composed probably of a large proportion of iron; it has been sent to London to be analyzed, but the result of the examination has not yet reached me. Judging from the remains constantly disinterred in its vicinity, I should be inclined to class this vessel with those of the eighth or ninth century.

The labours at the schools led also to further discoveries, as the workmen being in want of sand for their mortar, repaired to the gravel-pit, in the Borough Field, for that commodity. For this purpose they removed an entire slice of the original soil, which, from its situation at the further end of the pit, had not been previously disturbed, and came upon one of the deep, black holes, so common in Roman encampments, running seven feet deep, in a perpendicular direction; it contained a very perfect black cinerary vase, about five inches and a half high, one foot five inches in circumference, and five inches in diameter; comparatively speaking, of unusually large circumference at the mouth, and the nearly perfect rim of a vessel, probably a massive stoneware amphora. Both these I was fortunate enough

to obtain,—and the dimensions of the latter are so remarkable, that I insert them:—Circumference, three feet nine inches; diameter, one foot two inches. From this field, on the very verge of the trench, beyond the spot where my own operations ceased, I procured a curious bronze hook, fixed in a lion's head, of good workmanship, which, from its appearance and shape, would suggest the conjecture of its having belonged to a curb chain.

To the antiquities already recorded must be added the following, which have lately been turned up during the progress of the Chesterford and Newmarket railway.—In coins—a beautiful first brass of Faustina, senior, and of Nerva Trajan, and a third brass of Tetricus. In pottery—the neck and two handles of a very large stone-ware amphora; the handles had evidently been sawed off about four inches below their junction with the neck; portion of the handle of another stone-ware amphora, three parts of a cinerary vase, and a piece of embossed Samian ware. In metal—an iron key and fine bronze cattle bell, part of an iron stylus, one specimen of bronze ring money, a very singular iron implement, apparently a large pike, about two feet and a half long, and an iron chain, eighteen inches in length, with the links most curiously arranged.

Having thus far pursued the tenor of my way, certainly not an even one, and to my readers I fear perhaps monotonous and tedious, there being much sameness in the subjects treated of; my best thanks are due to those who have patiently accompanied me in my progress through a diary, which at its outset gave good promise of producing novel and amusing results;—hopes not destined, however, to be fulfilled; and this consideration, added to the circumstance that my excavations at this station are likely to be somewhat lengthy, has decided me to discontinue the form of the daily journal, and substitute in its place miscellaneous remarks, and particulars of individual occurrences, appearing worthy of attention.

With regard to the projected operations which I have laid down for myself, should health and strength be granted me (since all that has been already done only displays more clearly how much remains), I have formed a determination not to abandon the task until, in despite of the opposition of churlish landowners and other chance obstacles, the antiquities of this neighbourhood (and they are many) have been laid bare, and thoroughly exposed, root and branch, to public comment. Nor am I actuated in this case by a wish of arrogating to myself the office of sole investigator, but merely profess to be an instrument whereby these manifold curiosities may be submitted to the criticism of persons far more com-

petent than myself to draw conclusions on the subject.

In pursuance of the plan above alluded to, the following discovery is subjoined, which took place in the latter end of the month of July, on the new branch of railway from Chesterford to Newmarket, not far distant from its junction with the Eastern Counties line.

DESCRIPTION OF AN EARLY (SAXON?) INTERMENT.

This interment being entirely different from any I have before met with, I am naturally not conversant with the subject, and therefore must claim all due allowance for any errors that may occur in the description and technicalities. Indeed it pretends to be nothing more than an accurate detail of facts and circumstances.

One of the most prominent features on this occasion was the *débris* of a coffin, found by the *navvies*, who came on a perfect skeleton, accompanied by two iron braces with grabs attached to them; these were no doubt intended for the purpose of obtaining firm hold of the coffin, and apparently crossed it, one at the foot, the other nearer the head of the corpse, and bore marks of having been nailed or screwed to the lid. Besides these was a longitudi-

nal handle, even now affixed, and moveable on its hinges, so as to lie flat down on the top of the coffin, in the fashion of the handles attached to ladies' work-boxes at the present day ; not a vestige of woodwork remained, but a plate of very thin bronze lay longitudinally with the bones : the holes of the nails through which it was fastened are still plainly to be seen, but no traces were visible of any inscription, or other distinguishing marks. When perfect, the length must have been four feet and a half, but the breadth would not exceed three inches.

A curious vase also formed part of this deposit, so remarkable as to require a particular and minute detail. It is composed of a peculiar species of red ware, harder than any I have ever before met with ; the shape too is of a novel kind, and did not previously occur in my collection, being completely globular. Some idea may be formed of the disproportion between the relative sizes at the base of the neck, and the widest part of the vessel, from its dimensions, which are as follows :—Height from the base to the top of the neck, seven inches and a half ; length of neck, two inches and three-quarters ; greatest width, one foot five inches ; circumference of the top, three inches. The circumstance of its being ornamented with a pattern in white streaks, very much resembling some I have seen on the blue Etruscan vases, renders it very remarkable ; and all the concomitant facts of its disinterment related above, lead to a con-

clusion, that it is of a later period than those which I usually met with in these localities. At any rate it is certainly a very fine and perfect specimen, the only injury it received being occasioned by a blow from a thirsty *navvy*, who, in his anxiety to ascertain what liquor the corpse was furnished with, inserted the point of his pickaxe into the neck; so as to perforate the side about half-way from the bottom; this injury, however, has been carefully and well repaired.

Additional proof of the Sepulchral character of British Barrows, as afforded by the examination of a small one, under my auspices, in the early part of April, 1847.

This tumulus—situated within half a mile of that group of five, already described at length, on Mr Baker's farm, near Melbourne, Cambridgeshire—belongs certainly to the smaller class of these barrows. In shape perfectly oval; its utmost height did not exceed four feet. Owing to its diminutive size the contents were speedily ascertained; indeed it was completely turned over in the course of two days. Within five feet of the south-west extremity of the elevation, the workmen came upon a small cist, or nest, resembling that of a partridge or pheasant, scraped out in the original black mould of which the barrow was composed, and filled with

a quantity of burnt human bones : these were so broken up and intermingled as to render it difficult, if not impossible, to pronounce an opinion upon them ; we can only, therefore, conjecture that they probably constituted the remains of only one person.

About four feet from the opposite extremity (the north-east) a novel feature was brought to light, in the shape of a hearth, consisting of five or six flat strips of sandstone, placed side by side, and bearing visible traces of the action of fire upon the upper surface, which was equally covered with a mass of human bones, apparently burnt at the period of interment, and deposited in the position in which they were found. For the reception of this deposit the sepulchre must have been designed, as nothing further in the shape of weapons, pottery, or ornament, was elicited from it.

The foregoing excavation, though productive of no great tangible results, is nevertheless highly satisfactory, adding another link to the chain of evidence which proves that our British forefathers, despite their poverty, were addicted to the practice of tumular interment and cremation, even when their circumstances precluded the possibility of accompanying the rite by any suitable offering. Taking, too, all the appearances together, we are led to the conclusion, that the erection of this mound was subsequent to the Roman occupation.

To Mr M. Ward of Saffron Walden, I am indebted for being enabled to insert the following inscription, who has also been kind enough to allow me to exhibit the tomb on which it is engraved in my Museum. It is a very perfect specimen of the stone mausoleum, or sarcophagus, used by the Romans, and was imported from Italy by the late Mr Tredgett of Saffron Walden, and subsequently bequeathed by him to Mr Ward. The shape is square, and carved in front so as to resemble a tablet, bearing the following legend:—

DIIS MANIBUS.

ULPIÆ PRIMITIVÆ, CA. LUCIFERI FILIÆ, LIBERTÆ.

BENE MERENTI.

M. ULPIUS MARTIALIS FECIT. VIXIT ANNOS XXIII,
DIES XXX.

Translated it runs thus:—

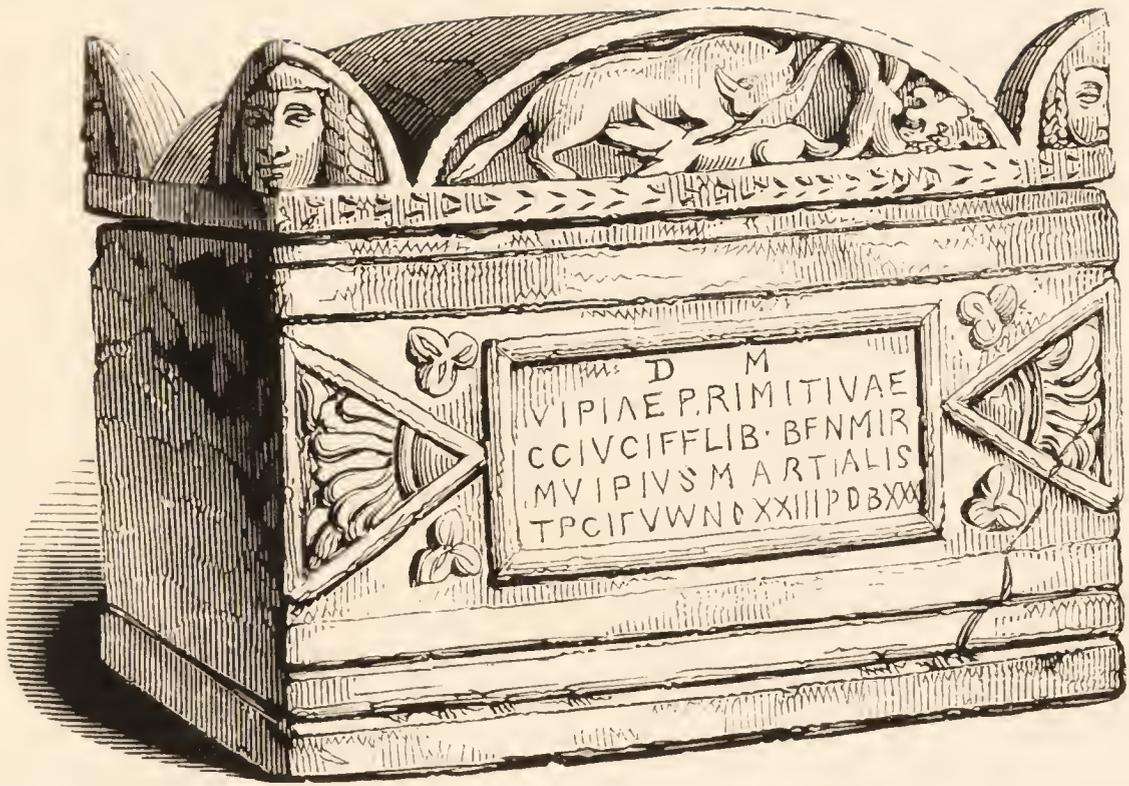
TO THE SHADE OF

ULPIA PRIMITIVA, DAUGHTER OF CAIUS LUCIFER,
A FREEWOMAN OF MERIT.

MARCIUS ULPIUS MARTIALIS ERECTED THIS.

SHE LIVED XXIII YEARS AND XXX DAYS.

The engraving which accompanies this description is taken from a drawing executed under my directions by Mr J. M. Youngman, with his usual faithfulness and accuracy.



TOMB FROM ITALY.

PARTICULARS RELATING TO A ROMAN
VILLA,

ACCIDENTALLY DISCOVERED IN THE VICINITY OF
CHESTERFORD, ESSEX, OCTOBER, 1847.

A short notice of this interesting relic of antiquity may well be introduced by a passing observation connected with its discovery, and that of many other similar instances: though, doubtless, the idea has already occurred to the minds of those, who for any length of time have studied and become intelligent observers of the course of events, bearing reference to these subjects. Let me, nevertheless, remark upon the number of ancient and valuable remains which have been brought to light by purely fortuitous circumstances; how often, in the progress of works designed for far different purposes, have ruins of buildings and camps, traces of cities and walls, weapons and utensils, whether domestic, military, or ornamental (but all illustrative of our forefathers' habits and manners), been casually turned up at last by the common labourer. And with regard to coins, such is more especially the case; the miser has

deposited his hoard, or the robber his spoil in some sheltered spot, remote and sacred, as he conceived, from prying eyes : poor short-sighted mortal ; little deemed he that after the lapse of centuries, the cart wheel of the farmer, or plough of the agriculturist, should intrude upon the hidden mine, and reveal to ages, then unborn, his secret, as a marvel and object of curiosity, to a group of gaping rustics !

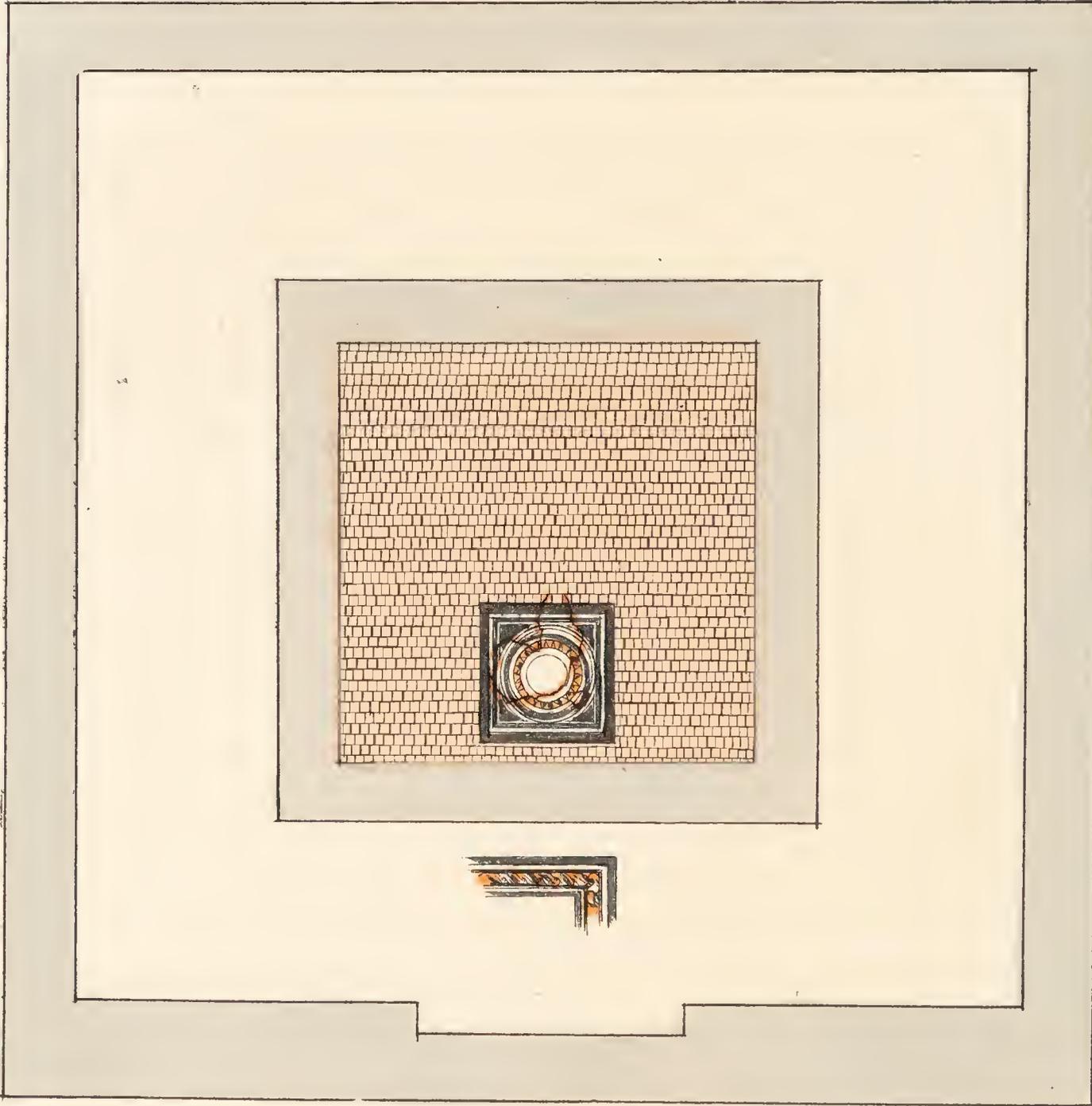
But we at least should not quarrel with this otherwise unamiable propensity, since we derive from its indulgence the additional gratification attendant upon unexpected pleasure, such as was afforded in the instance now under consideration.—A circumstance that will not, I trust, deteriorate from, but rather enhance its interest with the real lovers of Roman antiquities, for which the taste has of late become so general, and derives daily increase from the abundant supply of these commodities laid bare by the great railway works in every neighbourhood.—Running in all directions like the fibres of a stupendous net-work,—they gradually overspread with ruthless meshes the surface of our once beautiful Island. In removing hills, upraising mounds, diverting the streamlet from out its course and theirs, no obstacle impedes, nor love and veneration for the sites of old abbeys, churches, burying grounds, and ancient cities with their records of the past ; nay, even the lordly domain, in all its present glory, restrains not their

GROUND PLAN

of the

ROMAN VILLA.

WEST



EAST



sway: truly may they be termed the “universal levellers,” and literally, “no respecters of persons” or property.

Could one of the original occupiers of the soil but take a cursory glance at the invading heterogeneous mass of men and horses, earth, iron, boiler and engine, well might he reflect in sighing, on the passing away of the *golden* age, to be replaced by one of iron in its every sense, and feelingly exclaim with Ovid ;—

“ Quam bene vivebant Saturno Rege priusquam
Tella est ferratas accumulata vias.”

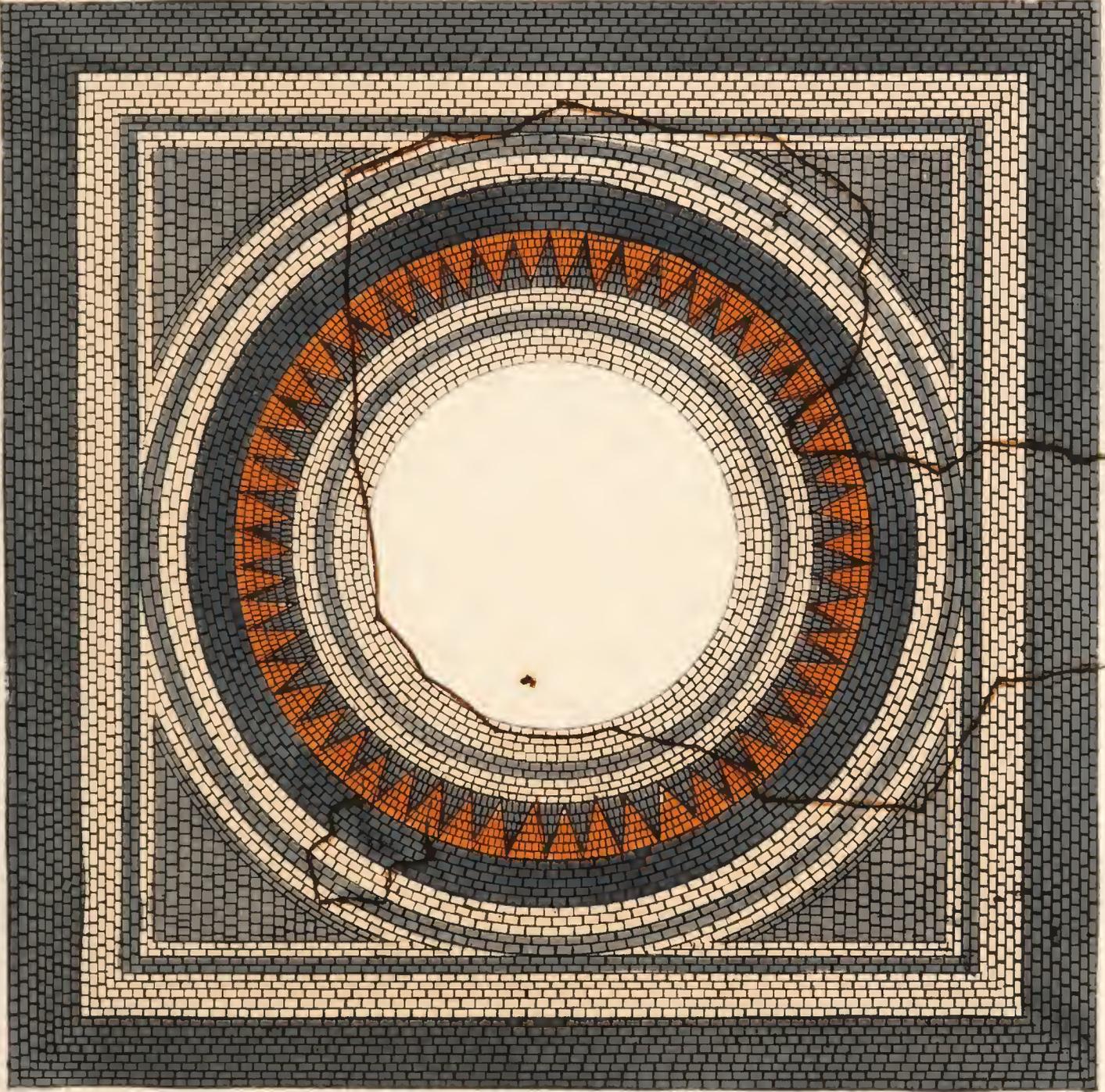
OVID : EPIST :

But to return to our subject.—On Monday October 11th, a labourer, while engaged in ploughing on the property of Mr Wakefield of Great Chesterford, struck his plough on a hard substance, and the implement being broken by the collision, he was led to examine into the occasion of the mischief, which proved to be the remains of a wall or building. The owner of the land having kindly apprized me of the circumstance, accompanied by a most courteous permission to excavate the foundations as far as might be deemed advisable, I immediately visited the spot, a side hill, distant about a mile from the Borough Field, in an easterly direction. Commanding a fine view of all that portion of the ancient station, the gradual slope afforded a cheerful western

aspect, being also open to the south and sheltered by a ridge of hill from the north, the situation appears pleasant and well adapted for the site of a dwelling house: add to this the idea conceived by Professor Henslow, that a wood still occupying the rear of the building formerly descended close to it, and it would seem to combine every requisite for outward comfort that could be derived from position.

The first point attacked was, naturally, the projection which had destroyed the plough, Mr Wakefield being rendered doubly anxious for its removal, by the desire of converting the large stones of which it was composed into building purposes. A labourer was thus engaged on my arrival, and the materials he had even then *disturbed* satisfied me at a glance as to the nature of the structure. Mortar formed of pounded brick, large ridge tiles with flanges appropriated to the baths, which I have frequently met with in similar foundations, and particularly at Hadstock, these with numerous fragments of painted stucco, evidently belonging to ornamented rooms, led to the correct conclusion that the whole was of Roman origin. So promising a prospect excited, as will be readily believed, all my antiquarian zeal, and caused me to commence operations in good earnest, so that by Wednesday, 13th, the walls of an entire villa were exposed to view. Containing apparently but two principal apartments, each of them had an ornament-

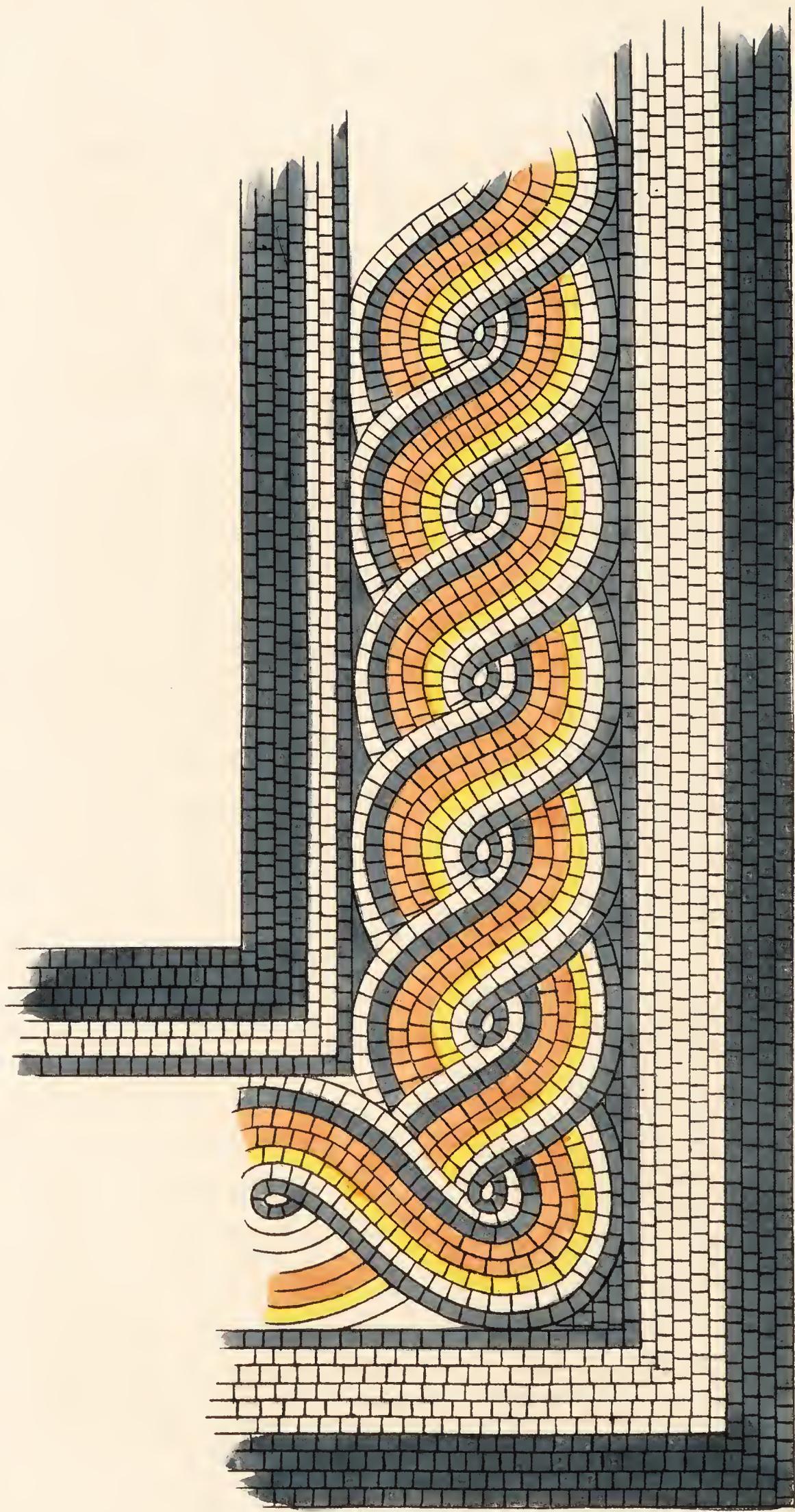
EAST



WEST

TESSELLATED PAVEMENT,

ROMAN VILLA, CHESTERFORD.



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ed mosaic floor of minute tesserae in wonderful preservation, considering that they had been deposited for so many centuries, within six inches of the surface, liable to be injured in the course of every agricultural process. The villa in shape described a perfect square, enclosing a smaller one, the exterior being forty feet each way.

In the first and smallest apartment the pavement was composed of four or five colours, forming a scroll or guilloche pattern : the other room only retained half of a curiously patterned square ; but there were evident traces of the existence, at an earlier period, of similar tesserae in the remaining half. A corridor or gallery enclosed the square on all sides,—paved also with tesserae, but the cubes of red were much larger and coarser than those employed in the rooms ; from this passage, probably, diverged all the other smaller apartments. Much to my satisfaction these were all examined by Sir John Boileau, Professor Henslow, C. R. Smith, and J. C. Buckler, Esqrs., who agreed in opinion on most material points ; the latter gentleman remarking, that the principle upon which this building was constructed, accorded exactly with one which we traced together in Berkshire, last May ; excepting that in *that* case, the foundations being those of a fort, the shape was a double-octagon, instead of a double square. The mortar, as in all Roman structures, was composed of pounded brick,

and the interior or partition walls beautifully painted in patterns, representing fruit and flowers; about five inches of red plaster still remained in the smaller apartment, where the tesserae of the floor appeared much worn by the feet. It would seem that the corridor communicated with the rooms on the eastern side, by means of an entrance in the centre of the square; and here also, judging by indications visible on the paint, and the formation of a small recess in the outer wall, Mr Smith suggested that there were, probably, one or more seats. No other foundations or remains of buildings occur in the immediate vicinity, this must therefore have been a solitary villa; and as there was certainly space for other apartments verging from the centre, it might well have been inhabited, though, perhaps, only at certain seasons.

One further remark will conclude this interesting subject,—that the corners of the corridor were all turned with tiles, and the centres of both pavements entirely defaced and gone, as though the ancient tenants, being determined to leave clean decks behind them, had dashed large stones through the floor, and thus denied to posterity the privilege of admiring their beautiful handiworks; nor were they less churlish in regard to more substantial evidence of their occupation,—the small list subjoined including all the “objects of virtù” con-

tained in the villa. In consequence of the tessellated borders partaking of the dilapidation of time, their complete restoration, so as to exhibit the beauty of the patterns, seems dubious ; they have, however, been accurately drawn and coloured by Mr J. M. Youngman, and a small portion put together. The person employed in this latter process observes that the red and white tesserae, made use of in forming the pavement, are composed of brick and common pottery, while those of blue are of a material found in Charnewood Forest, Leicestershire, but whether imported thence, or from a more contiguous locality, cannot now be determined.

- 1, Part of a small plain red fine Samian ware Cup.
- 2, Four or five pieces of a dark Vessel, very thin, and brittle.
- 3, A massive bronze Toga Pin with head.
- 4, A small Stylus, very slight and diminutive in comparison with those common to such localities.
- 5, A third brass of Constantius, and another small coin, illegible.

Many other coins have, however, been found, at different times, about this spot, and presented by Mr Wakefield, the owner, to the Walden Museum.

REPORT OF FURTHER EXCAVATIONS

CARRIED ON IN THE

BOROUGH FIELD, CHESTERFORD,

DURING THE MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER,
AND DECEMBER, 1847.

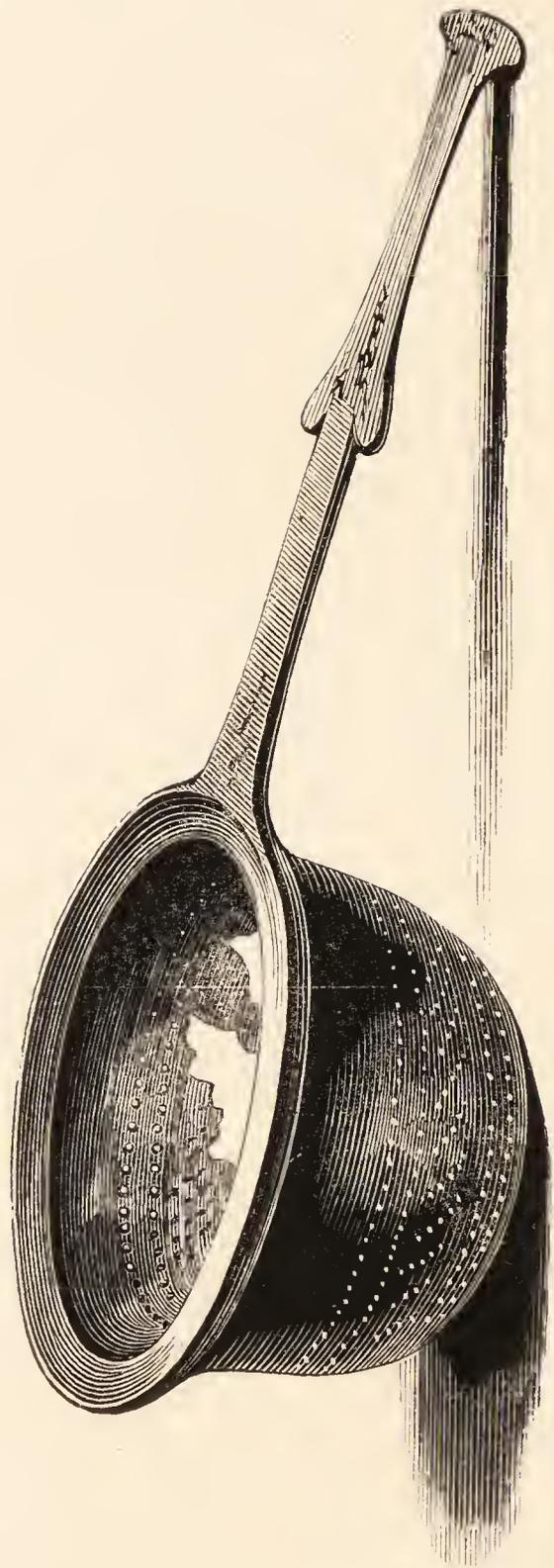
IN recording the progress of these excavations I gladly avail myself of the opportunity it affords me of acknowledging the courtesy and attention with which Mr. O. H. Edwards, of the above-mentioned station, has forwarded my operations in that locality. By his kind permission, and that of the Rev. E. Fisher (the actual proprietor), I have been enabled to complete the examination of a spot which, from the riches it had already produced, held out hopes to us visionary dabblers in antiquarian lore, of proving a perfect "El Dorado." It should also here be remarked that my zeal for research has derived fresh impetus through a promise emanating also from the same source, that as soon as the coming harvest shall have been gathered in, the accuracy of Dr. Stukely's plan and the *substantial* nature of his "Templi Umbra" shall be tested under my auspices.



VASE OF BRITISH WARE.



VASE FOUND WITH THE COINS IN THE BOROUGH FIELD.



BRONZE PATERA, CONTAINING COINS FOUND IN THE BOROUGH FIELD.

Should this idea be realized, not only my own gratitude, but that of archæologists at large, will be due to the courteous proprietor of the soil: while the fondness of Mrs Edwards for Roman remains and her valuable collection of coins is already well known to the readers of the Journal of the Association.

Previous to entering into a detail of my individual "treasure trove," an event of such importance as the finding a large hoard of 1st brass Roman coins, in the Borough Field, simultaneously with my operations (though at the opposite end), claims first and honourable mention. It is decidedly the most *weighty* discovery that has latterly occurred at Chesterford, and I was fortunate in being present on the occasion. While engaged, on December 15th, in superintending my own excavators, the gangsmen belonging to those at work on the Newmarket Railway, apprised me of their having just turned up a skeleton lying close to a small black cinerary vessel of superior quality, which contained four 1st brass coins, and one 2nd ditto of Trajan.

Again, in close contiguity with the urn was a very perfect bronze patera or ladle, having a handle attached to it, from three to four inches in length, and the bowl pierced into very minute holes, forming a pattern. Doubtless this was one of the sacrificial instruments, employed in sprinkling and purifying those who assisted at the funereal rites: a custom

alluded to by Virgil in his description of the burial of Misenus.

“ Idem ter socios pura circumtulit undâ,
Spargens rore levi et ramo felicis olivæ
Lustravitque viros dixitque novissima verba. ”

It was my original intention to give a detailed account of the various types and most valuable reverses of this almost unrivalled deposit: not having, however, as yet, received the report of the Numismatic Society, to the inspection of which learned body the coins have been submitted, I do not feel myself a sufficiently experienced or competent judge of such matters to venture any comments upon them. I have, therefore, refrained from subjoining more than a catalogue of the names of the different Emperors which occur,—merely remarking, that the whole are in fine preservation,—indeed, many of them have never been in circulation.

FIRST BRASS, 194 IN NUMBER.

Caligula	1	Sabina	1
Claudius	1	Antoninus	31
Vespasian	3	Faustina, Sen.	12
Domitian	13	Aurelius	8
Nerva	2	Faustina, Jun.	1
Trajan	56	Commodus	1
Hadrian	62	Illegible only	2

SECOND BRASS, 3 IN NUMBER.

(Very Fine).

Trajan (found in the Urn) 1	Hadrian 1
Antoninus 1	

The work having been, too, delayed for the above reasons, other causes will now prevent my entering into a lengthened history of the recent productions of the Borough Field, a design with which this paper was commenced; the list of coins, therefore, found during last year, merely, is inserted.

My readers will, however, I trust excuse this somewhat abrupt conclusion, being assured that, at some future period, their patience may possibly be taxed with a minute detail of the numerous varieties of pottery, Stylii, Fibulæ, &c., of which some sketches capitally executed by J. M. Youngman of Saffron Walden, accompany this paper. The coins, three hundred in number, are as follows:—

FIRST BRASS, 7 IN NUMBER.

Claudius Cæsar 1	Faustina, Sen. . . . 1
Hadrian 1	Aurelius 1
Antoninus Pius 1	Commodus 2

SECOND BRASS, 19 IN NUMBER.

Claudius Cæsar 2	Antoninus 1
Vespasian 1	Maximinus 1
Domitian 2	Maximianus 1
Nerva 1	Carausius 2
Trajan 2	Constantines 1
Hadrian 3	Magnentius 2

THIRD BRASS, 300 IN NUMBER.

Antoninus 1	Urbs Roma 10
Julia Aquilia Severa 1	Theodora Flavia 3
Gallienus 9	Crispus 3
Victorinus 4	Magnentius 4
Tetricus Father and Son 36	Valentinians & Valens 39
Claudius Gothicus 5	Gratianus 21
Quintillius 1	Theodosius 1
Carausius 1	Arcadius 2
Constantine	Justinian 1
Constantius	Illegible 70
Constans	

SILVER, 6 IN NUMBER.

Vespasian 2	Postumus 1
Septimus Severus 1	Gratianus 1
Maximianus 1	

Bidding then farewell, but not “a long farewell,”

“To those who love—
And those who hate,”

not the author, but his subject, he would only further
pray them, one and all, to

“Be to his faults a little blind,
And to his errors very kind!”

